

Japan crisis a threat to companies' supply routes

Read more in Aruba Today Business Pages B8 & B9

Aruba, Happy National Anthem and Flag Day



Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, March 17, 2011

THE DON



Lindsey Vonn of U.S. kisses her trophy of the women's World Cup downhill discipline title, at the World Cup finals in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

See Aruba Today Sports

Aruba National Anthem and Flag Day



ORANJESTAD - Aruba celebrates its National Anthem and Flag Day with a grand performance in Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad tomorrow, March 18, 2011. On this official holiday, patriotic sporting events and games also take place in towns all over the island. Many locations will be closed tomorrow and there will be no local newspapers.

To read more about this highly celebrated event, see page A7

In Libya

New York Times journalists missing



Stephen Farrell, a reporter and videographer working for The New York Times who was kidnapped by the Taliban in 2009 and rescued by British commandos, in an undated photo.

(The New York Times)

By JEREMY W. PETERS
© 2011 New York Times
NEW YORK - The New York Times said Wednesday that four of its journalists reporting on the conflict in Libya were missing.



Tyler Hicks, a staff photographer for The New York Times, in an undated photo.

(The New York Times)

Editors said they were last in contact with the journalists, who were reporting from the northern port city of Ajdabiya, Tuesday morning New York time.

And despite secondhand reports that they had been swept up by Libyan government forces, the newspaper said it could not confirm that information.

"We have talked with officials of the Libyan government in Tripoli, and they tell us they are attempting to ascertain the whereabouts of our journalists," said Bill Keller, executive editor of The Times. "We are grateful to the Libyan government for their assurance that if our journalists were captured they would be released promptly and unharmed."

The missing journalists are Anthony Shadid, the Beirut bureau chief and twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize for foreign reporting; Stephen Farrell, a reporter and videographer who was kidnapped by the Taliban in 2009 and rescued by British commandos; and two photographers, Tyler Hicks and Lynsey Addario, who have worked extensively in the Middle East and Africa. Keller said there was some speculation that they had been detained at a government checkpoint between Ajdabiya and Benghazi, a rebel stronghold in eastern Libya. If that is the case, he said, they would eventually be taken to Tripoli.

"Beyond that, we're still pretty much in the dark," he added.

The uprisings in the Arab

world have made the region a perilous place for journalists. During the revolt that toppled Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, journalists were assaulted, accosted, detained and killed. Two Times reporters were detained there and eventually released unharmed. Lara Logan of CBS News was sexually assaulted by a group of men. An Egyptian reporter was shot and killed.

Journalists' safety in Libya has become only more uncertain since the month-old revolt began. Last week, the BBC reported that four of its journalists had been detained by Moammar Gadhafi's security forces. They were beaten with rifles and subjected to mock executions, the network said.

Also last week, a cameraman for Al Jazeera, the Qatar-based television network, was gunned down in what it said was apparently an ambush near Benghazi.

The Times, like many news organizations, has procedures



Lynsey Addario, a freelance photographer for The New York Times, in an undated photo.

(The New York Times)



Anthony Shadid, The New York Times Beirut bureau chief and twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize for foreign reporting, in an undated photo. Shadid and three other journalists working for the newspaper were working in Ajdabiya, Libya, where reports say they were swept up by Libyan government forces on Tuesday. Editors at the paper said they were last in contact with the journalists on Tuesday morning New York time.

(The New York Times)

in place to track its journalists' whereabouts in areas of conflict. □

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In Minnesota

Legislator wants Jesus out of Senate prayers

ST. PAUL, Minn. – A Jewish Minnesota lawmaker is asking Senate leaders to allow only nondenominational prayers to open sessions, after feeling “highly uncomfortable” when a Baptist pastor repeatedly mentioned Jesus Christ and Christianity in one of the invocations. Democratic Sen. Terri Bonoff says she wants Republican Senate Majority Leader Amy Koch to change the letter submitted to all visiting chaplains to say they are “required,” rather than “requested,” to make prayers nondenominational. “I’m a very religious woman and believe deeply in God,” said Bonoff, of the Minneapolis suburb of Minnetonka. “We honor God in public and our political discourse, and that’s proper. But in doing a nondenominational prayer we are honoring him without violating the separation



Democratic Sen. Terri Bonoff

of church and state.” Koch said Wednesday she wouldn’t support such a requirement. She said the Senate invites leaders from numerous Christian and non-Christian faith traditions to pray, and notifies them that senators come from a diverse background. “I’m not going to get into the process of sort of editing prayer,” Koch

said. Several Jewish senators, all Democrats, are backing Bonoff’s request but she’s also meeting resistance from other Republicans. The GOP gained control of the Senate after November’s election. “I believe we don’t have a right to censor their prayers,” Sen. David Brown, R-Becker,

said of visiting chaplains. The prayer that prompted Bonoff’s request was delivered Monday by the Rev. Dennis Campbell of Granite City Baptist Church in St. Cloud, who mentioned Jesus Christ by name three times and made other overt references to Christianity. Campbell later defended the content of his

prayer. “There’s nobody that loves the Jews any more than the Christians, so that was not meant as an insult or disrespect,” Campbell said. “Rather, it was a show of respect to Jesus Christ just like our founders showed respect to Jesus Christ and the word of God when they built our Constitution.” □

Australian PM defends boat people riot response

SYDNEY – Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Wednesday defended the police reaction to riots at the remote Christmas Island detention centre after “bean-bag bullets” and tear gas was used.

The facility, which houses some 2,539 boat people, has been hit by a series of disturbances this week involving hundreds of mostly Iraqi and Iranian detainees.

“I understand that police confronted with situations of difficulty do have to make judgement calls about how they will respond,” she told a press conference.

“Whether it’s on Christmas Island or whether it’s in the CBD of one of our capital cities on a Saturday night, police have to make those judgement calls.

“So I am not going to seek to stand here and second-guess those judgement calls.”

Gillard said the consistent message from the government was that protests would not make any



Bean-bag bullets

difference to the processing of claims.

“We ask people who are being detained to obey lawful instructions that are given to them, including instructions by police,” she said.

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen earlier revealed that as well as tear gas, “bean-bag bullets” were used to quell protests on Monday.

“I have confirmed that they used gas and also they have confirmed that they used what’s known as a bean-bag bullet,” he said.

“I needed some education as to what a bean-bag bullet is. But as has been explained to me, it’s a bullet which the worst damage

that can be done is bruising; it’s like a little mini bean-bag which comes out of a gun-like weapon.” Amnesty International demanded an independent investigation into the use of force to quell the incident. “While the full details of the incidents in which tear gas and shotguns were used are yet to emerge, this use of force on Christmas Island is extremely concerning,” said Andrew Beswick, campaigns director for Australia. “Amnesty International expects that an independent inquiry will establish and disclose whether the use of force was appropriate and proportional, and whether the situation was properly managed by authorities and contractors prior to the deployment of force.”

More than 6,500 refugees mostly from Iraq, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka arrived in Australia last year on boats from Indonesia, crowding centres to capacity and inflaming debate on Canberra’s tough mandatory detention policy. □

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For executions

Texas switches to drug often used on animals



Death chamber

By Corrie MacLaggan
Associated Press

Austin, Tex — Texas, the state that executes more inmates than any other, said on Wednesday it will follow Oklahoma and switch one of its lethal injection drugs to a sedative often used to euthanize animals.

"It has been used by Oklahoma in their execution process, so there is a precedent there," said Michelle Lyons, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "Its use was upheld by the courts, so we're confident it would be upheld by courts for use in Texas."

The new drug, pentobarbital, will replace sodium thiopental in the Texas execution protocol. The change was necessary because Hospira Inc. of Illinois announced in January that it would stop making the anesthetic

after Italy objected to Hospira manufacturing an execution drug in that country.

Since then, Ohio has also made the switch to pentobarbital, though its lethal injection protocol differs from that of Oklahoma and Texas. Ohio uses only pentobarbital while Texas and Oklahoma use a three-drug cocktail.

In that three-drug protocol, the sedative sodium thiopental now, pentobarbital is followed by lethal doses of drugs that relax muscles and stop the heart.

In Texas, the change in the lethal injection protocol is the most substantial since 1982, when the state carried out its first lethal injection, Lyons said.

Lyons said Texas has enough pentobarbital to carry out the five executions that have been scheduled. □

'Rockefeller' to lawyer:

I didn't kill Calif. man

BOSTON — A man who claimed to be a member of the storied Rockefeller family insists he had nothing to do with the killing of a California man more than 25 years ago, his lawyer said Wednesday — a day after Los Angeles prosecutors charged the man with murder in the case.

Christian Carl Gerhartsreiter, 49, is a German national who came to the United States in the 1970s and assumed many identities, including Clark Rockefeller, a supposed heir to the Rockefeller oil fortune. He is currently serving a four- to five-year sentence for a 2009 conviction in Boston in the kidnapping of his 7-year-old daughter.

Police in California had long considered him a person of interest in the killing of 27-year-old John Sohus, a former landlord who mysteriously disappeared with his wife, Linda, in 1985 at the same time a German man using the name Christopher Chichester was staying in a guest house on their property in the wealthy Los Angeles-area enclave of San Marino, prosecutors said.

Gerhartsreiter could face 26 years to life in prison if convicted of murder in the disappearance of Sohus.

"He maintains complete innocence as he always has," Boston defense attorney Jeffrey Denner said after meeting Christian Carl Gerhartsreiter for two hours at a prison in Gardner,



Christian Gerhartsreiter

Mass.

"He doesn't know what to make of it," Denner said of the charge. "He thinks that obviously the notoriety of this (Boston kidnapping) case has generated interest in the Sohus case that didn't exist before."

Gerhartsreiter is eligible for parole next year in the kidnapping case.

Denner said his client is not afraid of any evidence in the California case because he believes "it will prove his innocence, not his guilt."

Gerhartsreiter probably won't fight extradition to California in the case, his lawyers said.

Arranging that extradition could take as long as two months, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Gerhartsreiter came to the United States as a teenager. Over the years, he told friends and acquaintances that he was a physicist, an art collector, a ship

captain and a financial adviser who renegotiated debt for small countries.

At his 2009 trial for kidnapping, prosecutors said Gerhartsreiter used aliases to move in wealthy circles in Boston, New York and Los Angeles. His strange story has become the subject of a TV movie.

His lawyer argued at trial that Rockefeller "snapped" after losing custody of his daughter to his wife of 12 years in a divorce. Gerhartsreiter used several aliases during his time in San Marino, including Christopher Chichester. He left town shortly after the couple disappeared, prosecutors said.

John Sohus' body was unearthed from the backyard of the house in 1994 when the new owners of the property were having a swimming pool built. At the time, investigators were unable to prove the remains were those of John Sohus because he was adopted and they had no known biological relatives to compare a DNA sample to.

About two months ago, investigators used new technology to conclusively identify Sohus' remains and cold-case investigators assembled "overwhelming" evidence that had been collected over the years, Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said. He declined to provide details.

"It was just old-fashioned, shoe-leather police work combined with technology," Whitmore said. "Detectives just never give up." □

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Tsunami killed thousands of seabirds near Midway



Seabirds killed near Hawaii

HONOLULU – Thousands of seabirds were killed when the tsunami generated by last week's massive earthquake off Japan flooded Midway, a remote atoll northwest of the main Hawaiian islands, a federal wildlife official said Tuesday.

At least 1,000 adult and adolescent Laysan albatross were killed, along with thousands of chicks, said Barry W. Stieglitz, the project leader for the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuges.

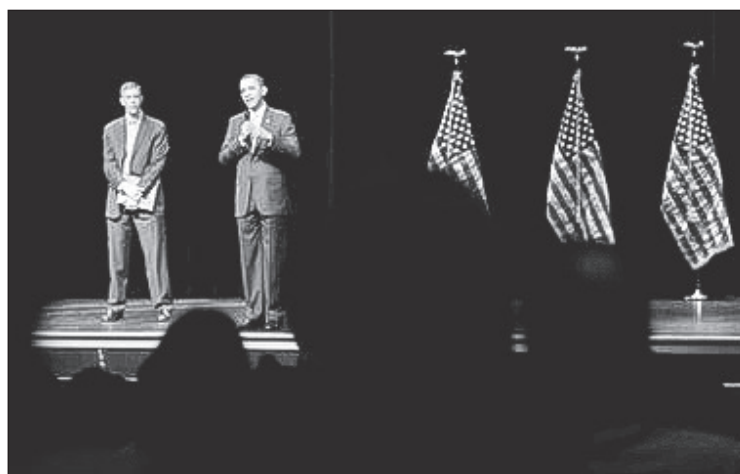
Many drowned or were buried under debris as waves reaching 5 feet high rolled over the low-lying atoll about four hours after the magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck Friday.

The white-and-black feathered Laysan albatross is not in danger of becoming extinct. About 1 million of the birds live at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge about 1,300 miles northwest of Honolulu, making it the largest Laysan albatross colony in the world. But Stieglitz said the deaths could account for a significant share of Laysan albatross chicks hatched during the current season. "We may see just a slight decline in breeding birds next year, next year and the year after that," he said. "There will be a gap in the breeding population when these birds that would have grown up this year, would have matured and started breeding for the first time."

The waves hit each of the three islands inside the atoll. □

FACT CHECK:

Are 82 percent of schools 'failing'?



President Barack Obama

By The Associated Press
President Barack Obama declared this week that four of five public schools could be labeled as "failing" this year under the No Child Left Behind Act if Congress does not take action to rewrite the law. "That's an astonishing number," he said Monday at a Virginia middle school. "We know that four out of five schools in this country aren't failing." Obama's terminology wasn't quite right, though. There is no "failing" label in

the No Child Left Behind Act. And schools that do not meet growth targets aimed at getting 100 percent of students proficient in math, reading and science by 2014 for one year are not subject to any intervention.

Those unable to do so for two or more consecutive years are considered "in need of improvement." The consequences then become stiffer each year, starting with offering students an opportunity to attend another school, and es-

calating if the targets remain unmet.

For those schools, there's at least the implication of failure, and that's one reason Obama says the 2001 law needs to be changed. There are many ways for a school to fall short of its requirements, even if most of its students are improving and succeeding. A school where all but one group of students are considered proficient in reading, science and math would be lumped into the same category as schools where no students are proficient in those subjects. The Department of Education says the number of schools that fail to meet the annual proficiency goals could jump from 37 to 82 percent this year. That would include schools that have not met the requirements for just one year.

"Everyone knew this day was coming," Education Department spokesman Justin Hamilton said. □

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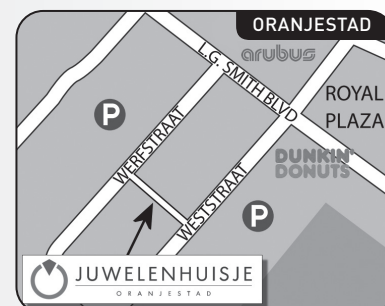
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Some grocers to abandon rebates for reusable bags

By DAN SEWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI – Supermarkets are finding a little bit of green doesn't make a big difference in breaking shoppers of the "paper or plastic?" habit.

Some chains including Kroger and Safeway are starting to move away from the pennies-per-bag rebates, saying they don't do enough to keep customers from forgetting reusables at home or in their cars.

Grocers save money when customers bring reusable bags. They also want to stay ahead of plastic-bag bans and taxes that could cost them or their customers more money.

Kroger Co., the nation's largest supermarket chain, had been giving three- to five-cent rebates or fuel discounts for each reusable bag. But it ended the bonuses this year in some regions. Customer feedback indicates most want to use reusable bags, company officials say; it's a matter of making it a habit. So Kroger officials say they're focusing more on promotions and educational efforts, investing in signs and other visible reminders.

Now, many Kroger parking lots are dotted with signs asking "Are your reusable bags still in the car?" Messages around stores tout the environmental value of bag reuse. A reusable bag replaces hundreds of disposable bags, one says; another: "Less Plastic? Fantastic." Kroger also sent shoppers coupons for reusable bags, holds bag design contests and giveaways, and puts out containers for recycling plastic bags. Kroger spokesman Brendon Cull says the company has found no significant difference between reusable bag frequency in markets with rebates and those without them.

Safeway Inc. also has been phasing out cash rebates such as 3 cents per bag in some regions. It's still dangling discounts, but making them more occasional and targeted. Shoppers who use Safeway's "Bright Green" reusable bags get 10 percent off Safeway's line of environmentally geared household products.

Moral appeals and trendiness are more powerful than small discounts, said Ted Brown, a consultant who helped develop one of the earliest reusable bag programs two decades ago. Make reusables fashionable and fun, and shoppers won't forget. □

After Japan reactor breach

U.S. to review drug supply

By Ross Kerber

Associated Press

BOSTON – The Obama administration will study distribution policies for a drug to protect against the effects of radiation as part of a review of the implications of Japan's ongoing nuclear disaster, a government spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

The new review would reopen a debate sought by safety activists who have called for a greater stockpile of potassium iodide near U.S. nuclear plants.

Debate over the supply has become politically charged, even as U.S. consumers cleaned out

some retailers of their stocks of the medicine in recent days with an eye on Japan's struggles to contain the damage at its Fukushima nuclear plant.

Currently 22 U.S. states have stockpiled or requested the tablets known by their chemical name "KI," to be taken by residents within 10 miles of power plants in an emergency.

Nuclear regulators and nuclear industry groups have resisted calls for stockpiles for people in a wider radius, saying planning is better focused on evacuation measures.

In a statement sent late on Tues-

day, Dori Salcido, spokeswoman for the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, said the government will study "every aspect" of the disaster unfolding in Japan following a massive 9.0 earthquake and tsunami, and the government's response to it.

"Policy options relating to KI distribution will be among the issues studied," she wrote.

Salcido did not immediately provide more details. The drug is intended to protect against thyroid cancer by stopping the sensitive gland from absorbing some forms of radiation. □

Chinese-American

Crash highlights gambling market

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK – At age 75, Mon Ling Ng is hard of hearing and often lonely a resident of Manhattan's Chinatown who finds a way to fill his days: by gambling. "I go almost every day; it's exciting, and I have company," said Ng, who takes a bus to a casino hours away.

About 30,000 Chinese New Yorkers per week board discount buses that take them from Chinatown to casinos outside the city buses like the one that crashed on a return trip from a Connecticut casino, killing 15 passengers.

The crash is illuminating how casinos around New York in many ways treat the city's Chinese-Americans as their bread and butter, a population with an ancient gambling tradition that will reliably hand over money.

"If you run a casino, Chinese



Gambling Chinatown

business is a major part of the business," said Peter Yee, assistant executive director for behavioral health services at the Hamil-

ton Madison House, which offers Chinese-language treatment for compulsive gambling. "There's no other population that is exclusively targeted by the gambling industry like the Chinese."

Yee noted that Chinese children grow up seeing some form of gambling "as part of everyday ritual."

"We incorporate it in all major celebrations, and it's for money playing cards, dice, pai gow," he said.

Mohegan Sun, the casino in Uncasville, Conn., from where the doomed bus was returning last weekend, caters especially to Chinese-American gamblers; its website has a Chinese-language section offering gaming and bus promotions.

The casino estimates that a fifth of its business comes from ethnic Asian clients. □

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Celebrating 25 year of "Status Aparte"

March 18th is Aruba's National Anthem & Flag Day



ORANJESTAD — On the 18th March 1948, during a Netherlands-Surinam-Curaçao conference in the Hague, the seeds of independence and a National Day for Aruba were sown by then Aruban leader Shon A. Eman who presented a petition signed by more than 2000 Arubans in favor of independence. Almost thirty years later during a parliamentary session on 16th March 1976, it was agreed that March 18th would be Aruba's National Day - the day to celebrate Aruba's national anthem and

flag and this was celebrated for the first time in 1976. Exactly 10 years later, in 1986, also on this important date, Aruba celebrated the achievement by Betico Croes of a dream that had been three generations in the making - Status Aparte - an autonomous status within the kingdom of the Netherlands. On this date in 1996, a monument was inaugurated in remembrance of the 2,147 people who, back in 1947 and 1948 had signed a petition in favor of Status Aparte. Aruba's National Anthem, "Aruba Dushi Tera" is a waltz

composed by Juan Chabaya 'Padu' Lampe (lyrics) and Rufo Wever (music). Song: Aruba Dushi Tera The Aruban Flag was very thoroughly designed and created with deep meaning. The star is red because much of the soil of Aruba is red, but it is bordered in white to suggest the waves beating on its white beaches. The red soil of the interior ends with white beaches before the blue sea -- a symbol of the island itself. And the star refers also to the island's unity, diversity, vigor, and beauty. The Commission pointed out that the four points also represented the four major languages: Papiamentu, Spanish, English, and Dutch. And the red in the star reminded Julio Maduro of the Indians who once lived on the island, and of blood shed by Arubans during war. White was Aruba's honesty, while blue, the color of hope, represents its future and its ties to the past. Finally, looking to the future, two narrow stripes were drawn across the blue field to suggest the movement toward "status aparte."



Those stripes were very narrow because Aruba is apart, but not isolated as it embarks on its path. One stripe represents the flow of tourists to sun-drenched Aruba, enriching the island as well as vacationers. The second stripe is for industry, all the minerals

(gold and phosphates in the past, petroleum in the early 20th century). The stripes announce a new, distinctive nationality with economic strength guaranteeing its independence, standing apart from the rest of the world, but working internationally. □

Join us on March 18, 2011

Governor supports National Bird Count



ORANJESTAD - The Governor of Aruba, Mr. Fredis Refunjol, recently invited the president of Aruba Birdlife Conservation, Greg Peterson, to his residence in order to receive his form for the national bird count.

The Governor, a nature lover, is very pleased about Aruba's first national bird count and appreciates the fact that it will be held on March 18th, Aruba's National Day.

The Governor was elated about the large number of schools in Aruba that are participating in

this event. Aruba's nature in general and our birds in particular are an important part of our culture and therefore the more school children participate, the better. Aruba's bird populations are under pressure from the invasive Boa constrictor and our birds should be monitored on a yearly basis.

Besides the collection of very important data the national bird count also contributes to increasing awareness of the beauty of nature on Aruba. To further demonstrate his commitment, the Governor informed Aruba Birdlife Conservation that his entire staff will participate in the count. The Governor of Aruba is requesting one and all in Aruba to participate in Aruba's first national bird count.

Identification of the 15 species of



Pictured is the moment Governor Fredis Refunjol receives his bird count form from the president of Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

birds for the first National Bird Count of Aruba on March 18 2011 <http://arubabirdlifeconservation.com...march-18-2011/> Information in English <http://arubabirdlifeconservation.com...-version-form/> Downloadable I.D. & count form for submission. □

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CILO celebrates St. Patrick's Day and Aruba Flag & Anthem Day

ORANJESTAD - CILO, the relaxed, happy City Lounge, which overlooks the marina and all its comings and goings, has come up with two specials: one for St. Patrick's Day and one for Aruba's Flag and National Anthem Day. Both are terrific and worth making a stop at CILO for. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, CILO's chef is making St. Patrick's Steak in a Jack Daniel marinade. The island's most important day of the year is its Flag and National Anthem Day, the Dia di Hymno y Bandera. CILO pays tribute with a pan-fried grouper in a creamy caper sauce. □

Aqua Grill is a vacation tradition



PALM BEACH – Timeshare owners from Costa Linda, Mickey and Peggy Ruben and Janeen and Rocky Hughes, have been traveling from South Carolina to Aruba for a dozen years now. Over the years the couples have tried

many of Aruba's great restaurants, and now have a "go-to" list of some of their favorites. One of those favorites is Aqua Grill, located in the heart of Palm Beach, where they are always sure to find the freshest in seafood. The restaurant's

"fresh-only" concept brings diners the best in local catches brought in by Aruba's fishermen, as well as live Main lobster and other seafood delicacies flown in fresh daily. Pictured here are the couples enjoying dinner. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

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Driftwood Restaurant

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Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

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www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Divi Links hosts a pre tournament cocktail party



The Divine Nine – A social pre-Flag Day Happy Hour in front of Mulligan's Golf Café Bar & Restaurant brought together members of the Kiwanis, members of Divi's management and members of the local Harley Davidson Bikers' Club.

As customary, the Divine Nine will be hosting a charity Golf Tournament on Flag &

Anthem day, March 18th, in conjunction with the Kiwanis. Designed to raise funds for charity the Kiwanis Golf Tournament at Divi Links collected almost \$10.000 last year, which was donated to Sonrisa, an organization devoted to the well-being of people with mental limitations.

This year the Kiwanis and Divi Links are doing it again,



and while annually the golf course offers a fancy new car as a prize for the golfer hitting a Hole in One, this year, a new Harley Davidson Soft Tail Heritage Classic 2011 was offered as a prize by the local

dealership owned by Humphrey Hardefeld.

Pictured here the cocktail party at sunset, the Hole in One prize in form of a new Harley Davidson, Divi's Managing Director Alex Nieuweyer and

members of the Kiwanis. Also supporting the party and the tournament an international group of bikers from Bonaire and Aruba, here to participate in the annual mega bike rally. □



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Japan scrambles to pull nuclear plant back from brink

By Shinichi Saoshiro
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's nuclear crisis appeared to be spinning out of control on Wednesday after workers withdrew briefly from a stricken power plant because of surging radiation levels and a helicopter failed to drop water on the most troubled reactor. In a sign of desperation, police will try to cool spent nuclear fuel at one of the facility's reactors with water cannon, normally used to quell riots.

Early in the day, another fire broke out at the earthquake-crippled facility, which has sent low levels of radiation wafting into Tokyo in the past 24 hours, triggering fear in the capital and international alarm.

Japan's government said radiation levels outside the plant's gates were stable but, in a sign of being overwhelmed, appealed to private companies to help deliv-

er supplies to tens of thousands of people evacuated from around the complex.

"People would not be in immediate danger if they went outside with these levels.

I want people to understand this," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano told a televised news conference, referring to people living outside a 30-km exclusion zone. Some 140,000 people inside the zone have been told to stay indoors.

The European Union's energy chief, Guenther Oettinger, told the European Parliament that the plant was "effectively out of control" after breakdowns in the facility's cooling system.

Workers cleared debris to build a road so fire trucks could reach reactor No. 4 at the Daiichi complex in Fukushima, 240 km north of Tokyo. Flames were no longer visible at the building housing the reactor.

High radiation levels prevented a helicopter from dropping water into the No. 3 reactor to try to cool its fuel rods after an earlier explosion damaged the unit's roof and cooling system.

The plant operator described No. 3 the only reactor at that uses plutonium in its fuel mix as the "priority."

Plutonium, once absorbed in the bloodstream, can linger for years

in bone marrow or liver and lead to cancer.

The situation at No. 4 reactor, where the fire broke out, was "not so good," the plant operator added, while water was being poured into reactors No. 5 and 6, indicating the entire six-reactor facility was now at risk of overheating.

"Getting water into the pools of the No.3 and No.4 reactors is a high priority," Hidehiko Nishi-

yama, a senior official at Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Administration, told a news conference, adding the pool for spent fuel rods at No. 3 was heating up while No.4 remained a concern. "It could become a serious problem in a few days," he said.

A military helicopter may be used again to try to drop water and troops mobilized to help pump water by land, he said. □

Europe trapped in Kadhafi's web



Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi

By Yacine Le Forestier
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — After placing its bets on Libya's opposition, Europe is headed for major diplomatic embarrassment should Moamer Kadhafi retake the country despite strong pressure exerted by the west.

For Europe, which talked up his opponents and slapped the world's strongest sanctions yet on the Libyan leader, a Kadhafi victory would bring loss of face as well as a looming humanitarian crisis in its backyard.

"Benghazi could become a new Dubrovnik for Europe," said Al-

varo de Vasconcelos, head of the Brussels-based Institute of European Security Studies, referring to the 1991 bombing of the Croatian port by the ex-Yugoslav army as Europe looked on powerless.

"It all reminds me of Bosnia and the Balkans. It was crystal clear to everyone at the time that crimes against humanity were underway but the necessary measures were never taken," he said. European nations again are in the front line, with the conflict unrolling in the southern Mediterranean where the European Union is moving to support the recent pro-democracy uprisings in the Arab world. Should Kadhafi crush the insurgents, it will be a failure for Europe and the international community, and "a terrible affront" for President Nicolas Sarkozy, said Jean-Dominique Giuliani, who heads the Fondation Robert Schuman think-tank. □

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What happens if a Japan-sized earthquake hits California?



New York — As Japan picks up the pieces after a 9.0-magnitude quake, anxious Californians confront worst-case-scenario forecasts for their state. Japan's massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake, tsunami, and unfolding nuclear disaster have Californians pretty nervous. And not without reason: Both Japan and California

have large populations served in part by oceanside nuclear power plants located not far from major tectonic fault lines. But is a Japan-sized quake on the West Coast a foregone conclusion? And should Californians live in "an existential anxiety even an apocalyptic terror" of such a catastrophe? Here's a brief guide. What are the chances Cali-

fornia will get hit by the Big One?

"The question is not if but when Southern California will be hit by a major earthquake — one so damaging that it will permanently change lives and livelihoods in the region," warns the United States Geological Survey in a 2008 study. A magnitude 7.8 quake in California Japan's quake was 30 times more powerful would kill at least 2,000 people and cause \$200 billion in damage, the USGS estimated. Because of how the state's many faults are structured, a quake of more than 8.0 is unlikely in much of California, geologists say.

Do we have any idea when it will hit?

The good news for California is that, according to the USGS forecast, there's only a 4 per-

cent chance of that 8.0 quake hitting in the next 30 years. The bad news is that a 6.7 quake or stronger is 99 percent likely to hit, and a 7.5+ temblor has a 46 percent shot. In far Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, the forecasts are even more dire: A one-in-ten chance of a major earthquake, 8.0 or greater, along the dangerous Cascadia subduction zone in the next 30 years. "Some day we will be having this same type of earthquake [as Japan] near our shores," says UC San Diego geophysicist Frank Vernon. What sort of damage would the Big One cause?

Many of California's newer skyscrapers conform to the state's now-rigorous building codes but many older structures would likely collapse

into a "carpet of rubble." AP also reports that California's "hot desert winds could fan fires that quakes inevitably cause, overwhelming fire departments, even as ancient water pipelines burst, engineers and architects say."

Are California's nuclear power plants prone to quake damage?

The Golden State's two operating nuclear plants San Onofre, along the coast between San Diego and Los Angeles; and Diablo Canyon, in San Luis Obispo County have different designs than the Fukushima reactors, but many of the same vulnerabilities.

San Onofre is rated to withstand a 7.0 earthquake, and Diablo Canyon, which is near several major fault lines, a 7.5 temblor. □



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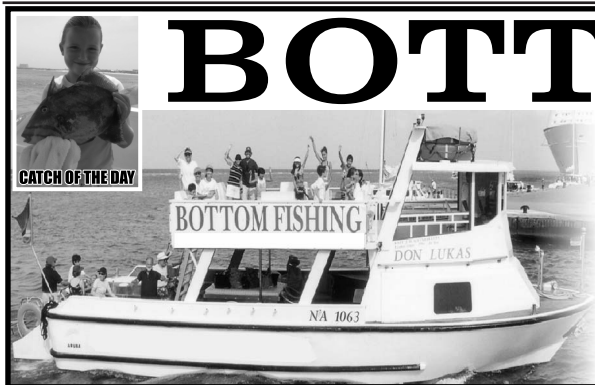
Japan Crisis

Could Japan's crisis prompt a global economic collapse?

New York — The earthquake's devastation cripples the world's third-largest economy. Will Japan's disaster derail the delicate global recovery, too?

The ongoing catastrophe in Japan has shut down much of the nation's industry, interrupting global supplies of everything from auto parts to computer chips. The triple disaster earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis has raised fears that the disruption of Japan's economy, the world's third largest, could derail an already fragile global recovery. Could Japan's crisis tilt the world back into recession? Yes, the disaster threatens the global recovery: The world economy is strong enough to withstand most natural disasters, says Alex Brummer at This is Money, but not necessarily one that brings its third largest economy to a "shuddering halt." Japan is home to "much of the world's technological know-how," and this tragedy has forced many huge manufacturers, like Sony and Toyota, to shut down. "It would be a dreadful mistake to underestimate the immediate and long-term impact of the terrible events in Japan on the prosperity of us all."

"Now we learn Japan's crucial role in the world economy" No, the financial trauma will pass quickly: "Despite the jitters in the markets, the fallout from Japan's trauma for the world economy might in the end be very limited," says Michael Schuman at TIME. □



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In Japan at Nuclear Plant

After radiation soars, emergency workers to return to plant



Braving falling snow, woman looks around

By ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

FUKUSHIMA, Japan – Emergency workers forced to retreat from a tsunami-stricken Japanese nuclear power plant when radiation levels soared prepared to return Wednesday night after emissions dropped to safer levels.

The pullback cost precious time in the fight to prevent a

nuclear meltdown, further escalating a crisis spawned by last week's devastating earthquake and tsunami that pulverized Japan's northeastern coast and likely killed more than 10,000 people.

It was unclear what happened in the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant's overheating reactors after late morning, when the workers stopped pumping

in seawater trying to cool their fuel rods. Officials gave only sparse information about the reactors.

But conditions at the plant appeared to be worsening. White steam-like clouds drifted up from one reactor which, the government said, likely emitted the burst of radiation that led to the workers' withdrawal. The plant's operator reported a fire at another reactor for

the second time in two days.

At one point, national broadcaster NHK showed military helicopters lifting off to survey radiation levels above the complex, preparing to dump water onto the most troubled reactors in a desperate effort to cool them down. The defense ministry later said it said it had decided against making an airborne drop because of the high radiation levels.

Officials are facing increasing criticism over poor communication and coordination.

Even the chief of the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, said Wednesday he would visit Japan as soon as possible to obtain "firsthand information" about the nuclear crisis and improve the flow of information from the Japanese government. □

Cautions about nuclear energy in China, France

By ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

PARIS – Japan's nuclear crisis reverberated in atomic power-friendly countries Wednesday, with China saying it would hold off on approving new nuclear plants and French lawmakers questioning top energy executives about the safety of their reactors.

Some governments have put their nuclear future on hold, at least for now, as concerns grow even among pro-nuclear governments about reactor safety around the world. Japanese emergency workers are desperately struggling to cool overheating reactors after a series of explosions at a nuclear plant crippled after last week's earthquake and tsunami.

China's Cabinet said Wednesday the government will suspend approvals for nuclear power stations to allow for a revision in safety standards. The State Council said in a statement following a meeting Wednesday that it has ordered the relevant departments to conduct safety checks at existing plants and at those that are under construction.

The move will allow China's communist leaders to allay any concerns among the public about the safety of nuclear power without derailing plans to double nuclear energy's share of national power generation to high single digits by 2020. □



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U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said:

Bahrain, Gulf allies, "on the wrong track"



Anti-government protesters places

By Lin Noueihed
Associated Press

MANAMA – Bahraini forces, backed by troops sent by neighboring Saudi Arabia, drove protesters from the streets using tear gas, tanks and helicopters on Wednesday, prompting rare criticism from their U.S. allies. Up to six people were killed in the violence which fueled regional confrontation between Sunni Gulf Arab states and non-Arab Shi'ite Iran.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a television interview on Wednesday Bahrain and its allies who have sent troops

to help it put down anti-government demonstrations are on the wrong track.

"We find what's happening in Bahrain alarming. We think that there is no security answer to the aspirations and demands of the demonstrators," Clinton told CBS in an interview, urging Bahrain to negotiate a political agreement with demonstrators.

"We have also made that very clear to our Gulf partners who are part of the Gulf Cooperation Council, four of whose members have sent troops to support the Bahraini government. They are on the wrong track," Clinton

added according to a U.S. pool reporter who attended the interview. A member of parliament from the largest Shi'ite Muslim opposition group denounced the government assault as a declaration of war on the Shi'ite community. "This is war of annihilation. This does not happen even in wars and this is not acceptable," Abdel Jalil Khalil, the head of Wefaq's 18-member parliament bloc, said. "I saw them fire live rounds, in front of my own eyes." A protest called by the youth movement, which had been leading protests at the Pearl roundabout, failed to materialize after the military banned all marches and gatherings and imposed a curfew from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. across a large swathe of Manama. A AP witness saw Bahraini tanks

move in the direction of Budaya Street, where the protest was set to take place.

Washington, a close ally of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, has called for restraint in the island kingdom, home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. It sent U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Jeff Feltman to Bahrain to push for talks to resolve the crisis.

Over 60 percent of Bahrainis are Shi'ites and they complain of discrimination at the hands of the Sunni royal family, the al-Khalifa. Most Shi'ites want a constitutional monarchy but calls by some hardliners for the overthrow of the monarchy have alarmed the Sunni minority, which fears that unrest could serve non-Arab Shi'ite power Iran.

Gulf Arab ruling families are

Sunni and analysts say the intervention of their forces in Bahrain might provoke a response from Iran, which supports Shi'ite groups in Iraq and Lebanon.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Bahrain's crackdown was "unjustifiable and irreparable."

"Today, we witness the degree of pressure imposed on the majority of people in Bahrain," he said according to state TV.

"What has happened is bad, unjustifiable and irreparable."

Helicopters flew overhead and riot police fired teargas as they advanced from about 7 a.m. on the Pearl roundabout, focal point of weeks of protests. Youths hurled petrol bombs at police near the roundabout and scattered as new rounds of teargas hit. □

EU energy chief says

Japan reactor "out of control"

BRUSSELS – Europe's energy chief warned on Wednesday of a further catastrophe at Japan's nuclear site "in the coming hours" but his spokeswoman said he had no specific or privileged information on the situation.

"In the coming hours there could be further catastrophic events which could pose a threat to the lives of people on the island," Commissioner Guenther Oettinger told a committee of the European Parliament.

"There is as yet no panic, but Tokyo, with 35 million people, is the largest metropolis in the world," he said.

When asked, his spokeswoman said his prediction of a catastrophe in the hours ahead was not based on any specific privileged information.

Oettinger's experts are relying largely on a mixture of reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the international media to monitoring Japan's nuclear crisis.

He said the nuclear site was "effectively out of control," with the cooling systems not working. "As a result we are somewhere between a disaster and a major disaster," he said.

Since the crisis emerged, Oettinger has moved quickly to try to forge a pan-European re-



EU Energy Commissioner
Guenther Oettinger

sponse in an area where the European Commission has rarely intervened in the past.

Nuclear policy has previously been left up to Europe's 27 member states on a government by government basis.

The European Union and Switzerland have 148 nuclear reactors between them, 19 of which are boiling water reactors as used at Fukushima in Japan, but only two of those are of a similar design, industry body Foratom says. □




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In search of monsters



By MAUREEN DOWD

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Iraq war hawks urging intervention in Libya are confident that there's no way Libya could ever be another Iraq.

Of course, they never thought Iraq would be Iraq, either.

All President Barack Obama needs to do, Paul Wolfowitz asserts, is man up, arm the Libyan rebels, support setting up a no-fly zone and wait for instant democracy.

It's a cakewalk.

Didn't we arm the rebels in Afghanistan in the '80s? And didn't many become Taliban and end up turning our own weapons on us? And didn't one mujahadeen from Saudi Arabia, Osama bin Laden, go on to lead al-Qaida?

So that worked out well.

Even now, with our deficit and military groaning from two wars in Muslim countries, interventionists on the left and the right insist it's our duty to join the battle in a third Muslim country.

"It is both morally right and in America's strategic interest to enable the Libyans to fight for themselves," Wolfowitz wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed piece.

You would think that a major architect of the disastrous wars and interminable occupations in Afghanistan and Iraq would have the good manners to shut up and take up horticulture. But the neo-con naif has no shame.

After all, as Defense Secretary Robert Gates told West Point cadets last month, "In my opinion, any future defense secretary who advises

the president to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should 'have his head examined,' as Gen. MacArthur so delicately put it."

Gates boldly batted back the Cakewalk Brigade — which includes John McCain, Joe Lieberman and John Kerry — bluntly telling Congress last week: "Let's just call a spade a spade.

A no-fly zone begins with an attack on Libya to destroy the air defenses.

That's the way you do a no-fly zone. And then you can fly planes around the country and not worry about our guys being shot down. But that's the way it starts."

Wolfowitz, Rummy's No. 2 in W.'s War Department, pushed to divert attention from Afghanistan and move on to Iraq; he pressed the canards that Saddam and Osama were linked and that we were in danger from Saddam's phantom WMDs; he promised that the Iraq invasion would end quickly and gleefully; he slapped back Gen. Eric Shinseki when he said securing Iraq would require several hundred thousand troops; and he claimed that rebuilding Iraq would be paid for with Iraqi oil revenues.

How wrong, deceptive and deadly can you be and still get to lecture Obama on his moral obligations?

Wolfowitz was driven to invade Iraq and proselytize for the Libyan rebels partly because of his guilt over how the Bush I administration coldly deserted the Shiites and Kurds who were urged to rise up against Saddam at the end of the 1991 gulf war.

Saddam sent out helicopters to slaughter thousands. (A NATO no-fly zone did not stop that.) Moammar Gadhafi is also monstrous, slaughtering civilians and hiring mercenaries to kill rebels.

It's hard to know how to proceed, but in his rush, Wolfow-

itz never even seems to have a good understanding of the tribal thickets he wants America to wade into.

In Foreign Affairs, Frederic Wehrey notes that "for four decades Libya has been largely terra incognita ... 'like throwing darts at balloons in a dark room,' as one senior Western diplomat put it to me."

Leslie Gelb warns in The Daily Beast that no doubt some rebels are noble fighters, but some "could turn out to be thugs, thieves, and would-be new dictators.

Surely, some will be Islamic extremists. One or more might turn into another Gadhafi after gaining power.

Indeed, when Gadhafi led the Libyan coup in 1969, many right-thinking Westerners thought him to be a modernizing democrat."

Reformed interventionist David Rieff, who wrote the book "At the Point of a Gun," which criticizes "the messianic dream of remaking the world in either the image of American democracy or of the legal utopias of international human rights law," told me that after Iraq: "America doesn't have the credibility to make war in the Arab world.

Our touch in this is actually counterproductive."

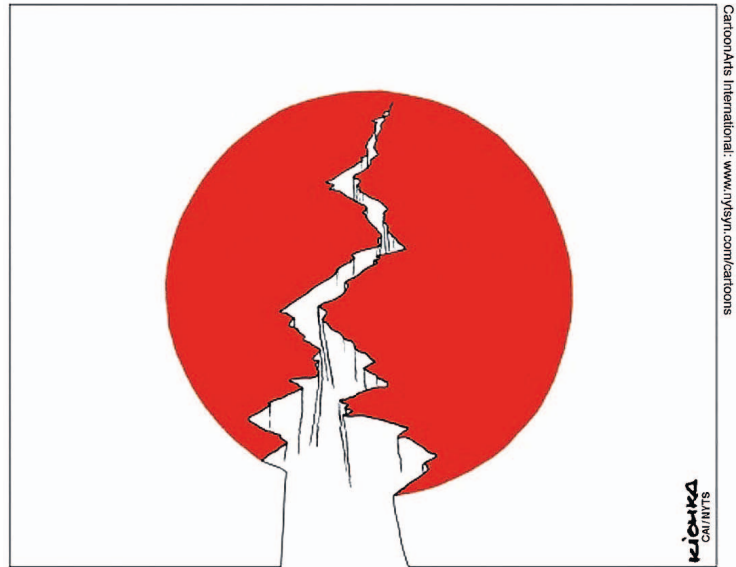
He continued: "Gadhafi is a terrible man, but I don't think it's the business of the United States to overthrow him.

Those who want America to support democratic movements and insurrections by force if necessary wherever there's a chance of them succeeding are committing the United States to endless wars of altruism. And that's folly." He quotes John Quincy Adams about America: "Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her benedictions and her prayers be.

But she goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy ... she is the champion and vindicator only of her own."

As for Wolfowitz, Rieff notes drily, "He should have stayed a mathematician." □

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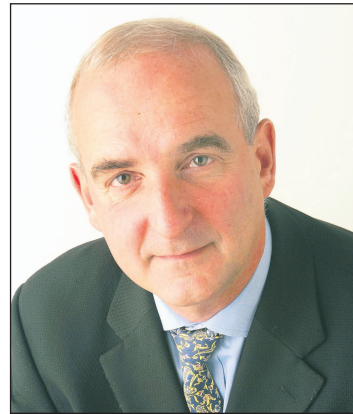


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Happynomics of life



By ROGER COHEN

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LONDON — The Brits don't go in much for happiness. Stiff upper lip is more the thing, and a good laugh if warranted. Trying to be happy just seems like piffle to a practical people. Undeterred, Prime Minister David Cameron has decided to create a national happiness index providing quarterly measures of how folks feel. His foray into "happynomics" has prompted a deluge of criticism — "woolly-headed distraction" was a mild commentary — at a time when Brits face a year of cuts in everything from public-sector jobs to child benefits. The consensus seems to be that Cameron is going touchy-feely because in reality he's wielding an ax. That may be so. But the case for trying to measure the happiness of a society, rather than its growth and productivity alone, has become compelling. When Western industrialized societies started measuring gross domestic product, the issue for many was survival. Now most

people have enough — or far more than enough by the standards of human history — but the question remains: "What's going on inside their heads?" Little that's good, it seems. Stress has become the byword for a spreading anxiety. This anxiety's personal, about jobs and money and health, but also general: that we can't go on like this, running only to stand still, making things faster and faster, consuming more and more food (with consequent pressures on prices); that somehow a world of more than 7 billion people is going to have to "downshift" to make it, revise its criteria of what constitutes well-being.

Just what goes into well-being is confounding. Many of the variables — like love and friendship and family relations — are difficult to pin down. But British research has suggested that money itself does not confer happiness, although wealthier people tend to be happier; that employment is critical to self-esteem; that women tend to be happier than men; and that people need something beyond the material for fulfillment.

Starting next month, the government will pose the following questions and ask people to respond on a scale of zero to 10: How happy did you feel yesterday? How anxious did you feel yesterday? How satisfied are you with your life nowadays? To what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile? □

Leader of the pack

Lindsey Vonn of the United States speeds down the course during an alpine ski, women's World Cup downhill event, at the World Cup finals in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Lindsey Vonn took the lead from Maria Riesch in their duel for the overall World Cup title on Wednesday, finishing fourth behind winner Julia Mancuso in the season's last downhill.

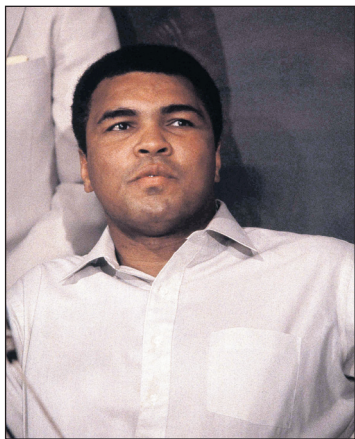
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, March 17, 2011

AP Exclusive:



In this 1984 file photo, Muhammad Ali is shown.

Associated Press

Ali asks Iran to free U.S. hikers

JANET CAPIELLO,
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — Boxing champ Muhammad Ali is seeking the release of two American hikers from Iran by lobbying the country's supreme leader in a way that few American dignitaries can: as a brother in Islam.

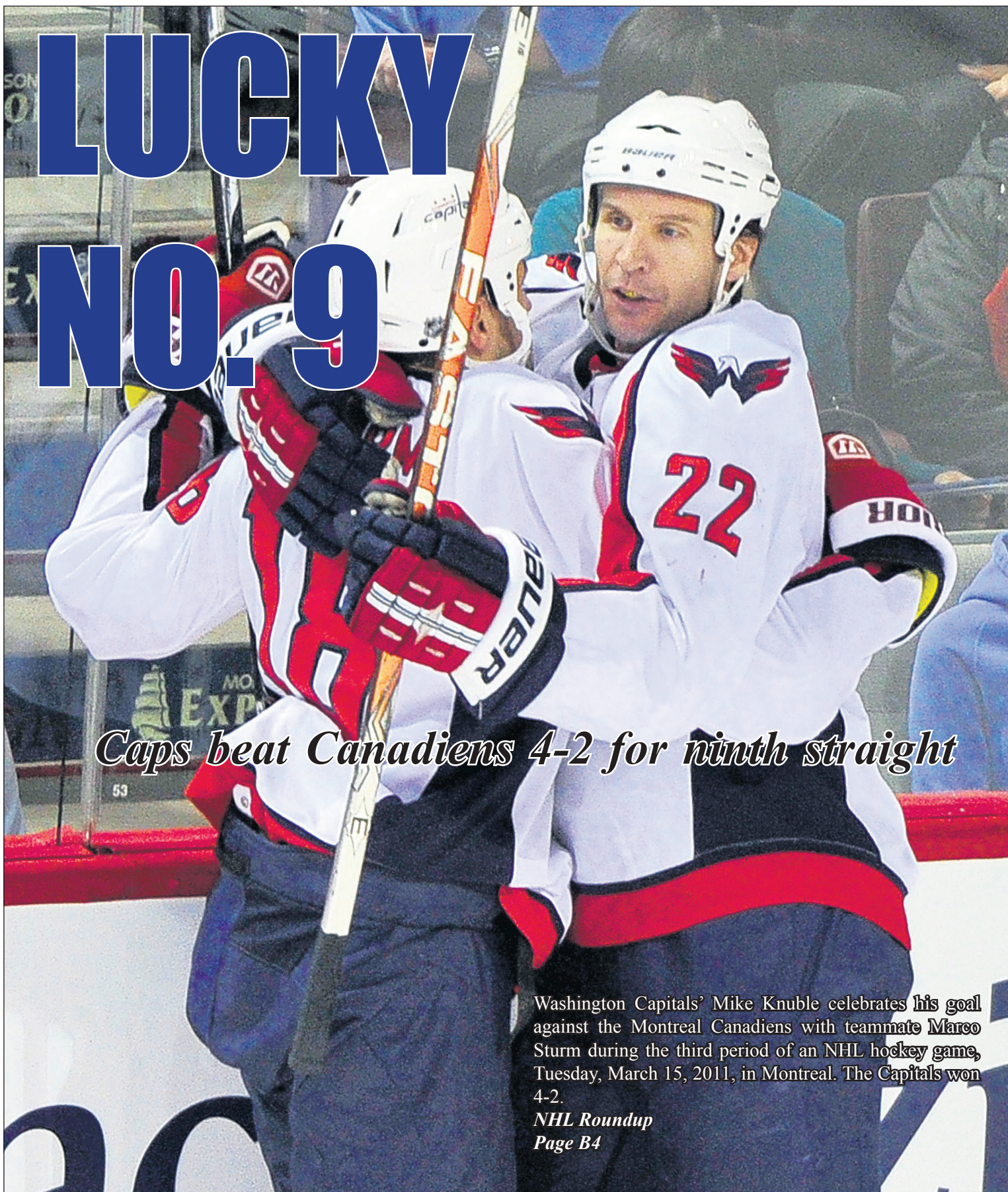
Arguably the most prominent U.S. Muslim, Ali made his simple, behind-the-scenes appeal to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in February and released his letter to The Associated Press on Wednesday. Ali's wife said he would be willing to return to the country, which he's visited twice before, to work on the hikers' release if his health allows.

The letter asks Khamenei to release Josh Fattal and Shane Bauer, who have been held on espionage charges since July 2009, when they were arrested while hiking in northern Iraq near the Iranian border.

Continued on page 6

LUCKY NO. 9

Caps beat Canadiens 4-2 for ninth straight



Washington Capitals' Mike Knuble celebrates his goal against the Montreal Canadiens with teammate Marco Sturm during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Montreal. The Capitals won 4-2.

NHL Roundup
Page B4

Vonn takes overall lead; Mancuso wins downhill



U.S. Lindsey Vonn, right, and Switzerland's Didier Cuche show their trophies of the women's and men's World Cup downhill discipline titles, at the World Cup finals in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

Associated Press

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer
LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland
(AP) — Lindsey Vonn seized the lead from Maria Riesch in their duel for the overall World Cup title on Wednesday by finishing fourth behind winner Julia Mancuso in the season's last downhill. Mancuso dominated the race to get her first World Cup win since March 2007, finishing 0.81 seconds clear of Switzerland's Gut with world champion Elisabeth Goergl placing third, trailing by 1.15. While Vonn's fourth-place finish was her worst downhill result all season, it was

enough to earn 50 race points and leapfrog Riesch in the overall standings, as the German trailed badly and finished out of the points in 17th. The American racer, who is seeking her fourth straight overall title, now has 1,705 points to Riesch's 1,678 with three races left this week. "I'm really happy with fourth place," said Vonn, who lost time early in her run then fought back on the steep bottom section. "I think it was a solid performance and another exciting day in the hunt for the overall." Vonn began the month trailing Riesch by 196 points, but now leads by 27 after her German friend and rival faltered for the third straight race. "I'm proud of myself for being able to come from behind and being able to say I'm in the hunt at finals," said Vonn, who had already sealed the downhill discipline title. Riesch put down a cautious run and finished a full 3.19 seconds behind Mancuso. "It's tough when you have led the whole season and suddenly you get knocked off the top," Riesch said. The 26-year-old German slumped to the snow in the finish area, and was later shown on television sitting with her head in her hands in the equipment inspection hut. Skiing several minutes later, Vonn also looked uncomfortable at times on the steep, twisting course. But she raised

her right fist triumphantly after finishing when seeing she stood in third place. Mancuso skied next and delivered an assured, aggressive run to clock 1 minute, 27.50 seconds. Her victory denied Vonn an extra 10 World Cup points. Mancuso's win was her first in the World Cup since a downhill at Tarvisio, Italy, four seasons ago and the fifth of her career. "It's really, really nice to finally win," said Mancuso, the Olympic silver medalist in downhill behind Vonn a year ago. "It was a really great opportunity. I wanted to win and I knew I had to risk it all." After watching early leader Lara Gut's strong run, she decided to attack. "I got a good feeling you really had to charge so I took it down the hill. I was trying to win and trying to risk," said Mancuso, who has pledged half of her prize money this week to relief efforts in Japan. Despite her winless streak, Mancuso had shown good form when finishing second behind Riesch in the downhill at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, in January. She also took silver in super-G behind Goergl at the world championships last month, Mancuso climbed to third in the final downhill standings, behind Vonn and Riesch who each won three races. The women continue racing Thursday in the final super-G. □

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Juninho scores as L.A. beats Seattle 1-0

MLS Roundup

SEATTLE (AP) — Los Angeles midfielder Juninho scored from a long range strike in the second half as the Galaxy beat the Seattle Sounders 1-0 in Major League Soccer's season opener Tuesday. Having watched Seattle control play for the better part of 45 minutes, the Galaxy struck with a quick counterattack off a careless turnover by Seattle midfielder Erik Friberg. His

pass was intercepted by Todd Dunivant who carried into open space and laid off a pass for Juninho. The Brazilian swerved in a 25-yard shot past Seattle keeper Kasey Keller inside the near post in the 58th minute. Seattle had plenty of chances to equalize, the best coming in the 72nd minute when O'Brian White redirected Steve Zakuani's cross, only to see it bounce wide of the far post. □

NFL: Suspensions more likely for illegal hits

By The Associated Press

The NFL will be more aggressive in suspending players next season for illegal hits, and also could make changes to instant replay and kickoffs. Ray Anderson, the league's chief disciplinarian, said Wednesday that repeat offenders or players committing flagrant illegal hits will have a much greater chance of being suspended during the 2011 season. No suspensions were handed down in 2010 even after the NFL's crackdown on such hits, in part because "we were operating under the principle unless you have given sufficient advance notice of what the results could be, you need to be more lenient," Anderson said.

"Frankly, now that the notice has been given, players and coaches and clubs are very aware of what the emphasis is and we won't have that hesitation," Anderson said. "Everyone will be very clearly on notice now that a suspension is very viable for us and we will exercise it ... when it comes to illegal hits to the head and neck area and to defenseless players.

"The NFL increased the amount on its fines for such hits last year after a series of fouls on one October weekend. Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison was fined \$75,000 for one such tackle, while Atlanta Falcons cornerback Dunta Robinson and New England Patriots safety Brandon Meriweather were docked \$50,000 for hits to defenseless opponents that weekend.

Many more fines were implemented throughout the remainder of last season but no player was suspended, even though suspensions were considered, Anderson said.

"We want to be much more clear on what can be a suspendable incident," Anderson said. "The emphasis is on head and neck hits and what a defenseless player is. And we will work hard that people understand what is a repeat of-



This Jan. 25, 2011, file photo shows Ray Anderson, the NFL league's chief disciplinarian, addressess the media during a Pro Bowl NFL football news conference at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, in Honolulu. Associated Press

fender and what is a flagrant foul." The league looks at two years worth of plays to determine repeat offenders.

Rules defining a defenseless player will be expanded and now will include eight categories:

_A quarterback in the act of throwing;

_A receiver trying to catch a pass;

_A runner already in the grasp of tacklers and having his forward progress stopped;

_A player fielding a punt or a kickoff;

_A kicker or punter during the kick;

_A quarterback at any time after change of possession;

_A receiver who receives a blind-side block;

_A player already on the ground.

At next week's owners meetings in New Orleans, the competition committee will propose moving the kickoff up to the 35 yard-line, and bringing a touchback out to the 25. There would be no changes for touchbacks on any other plays, with the ball coming out to the 20.

No player other than the kicker would be allowed to line up more than 5 yards behind the ball, and the committee will

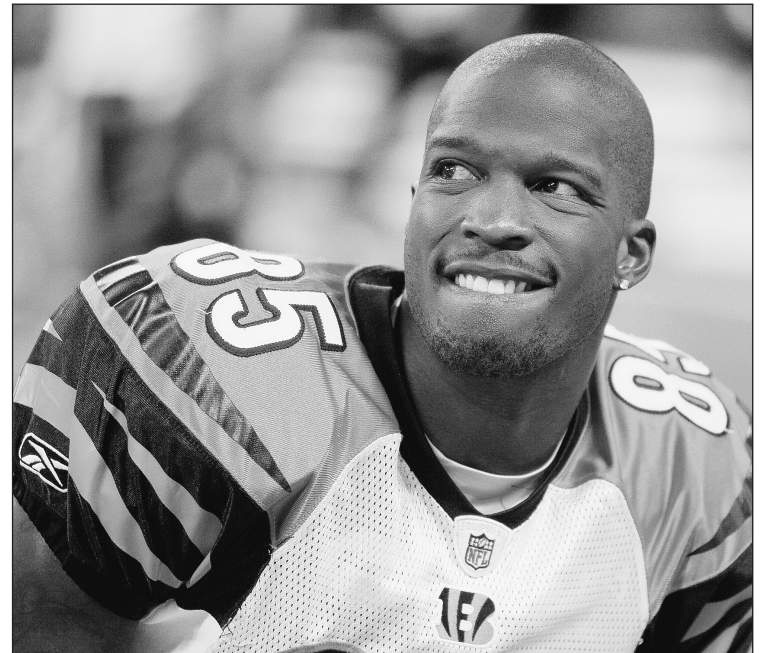
suggest outlawing the wedge on kickoffs; all blocking wedges were reduced to two players in 2009.

"The injury rate on kickoffs remains a real concern for us and the players and the coaches' subcommittee," said Falcons president Rich McKay, the chairman of the competition committee. "This is a pretty major change."

So would be making all scoring plays reviewable, another proposal the committee will bring to the owners on Monday. This change would empower the replay official to order replays on any touchdowns, field goals, safeties and extra points without the coaches needing to challenge. It would be similar to the current system for the final two minutes of each half and for overtime. It also would mirror what colleges do on scoring plays for entire games.

Eliminating a third coach's challenge if he is successful on the first two also will be proposed; McKay said the third challenge rarely was used. There will be no "Calvin Johnson rule" proposal on what is a catch. Johnson seemingly made a touchdown reception late in the Lions' season opener last September. □

NFL star to trial with Kansas City MLS team



In this Nov. 14, 2010 file photo, Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco (85) looks on before an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis. Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Wide receiver Chad Ochocinco is using the NFL lockout to see if he can play for Major League Soccer side Kansas City.

Never short on publicity-grabbing ideas, the Cincinnati Bengals player was set for a four-day trial starting on Tuesday.

The club said on Wednesday that after the tryout, it will determine whether to extend the trial.

"We're always searching for players who can help our team and bringing in new talent," Kansas City manager

Peter Vermes said.

"We know that Chad is an exceptional athlete and that he loves the sport of soccer, and he did play a lot when he was younger. We're excited to see how his skills will translate once he arrives next week and begins training with our team."

Ochocinco started playing football at age four but chose to focus on American football in high school.

"Due to the NFL lockout, I'm excited to be able to follow my childhood dream of playing for a Major League Soccer team," Ochocinco said. □

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NHL Roundup

Capitals beat Canadiens 4-2 for 9th straight win



Washington Capitals' Marcus Johansson scores past Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Montreal. The Capitals beat the Canadiens 4-2.

Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — Marcus Johansson scored his second goal of the game 6:43 into the third period and Mike Knuble added Washington's second power-play goal as the Capitals extended their winning streak to nine games with a 4-2 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday. Johansson, who also scored a power-play goal 1:06 into the game, took Alexander Ovechkin's centering pass and put a backhand shot past Carey Price for his 11th goal of the season to give Washington its third and final one-goal lead.

Knuble added an insurance goal with his 17th with 3:07 left in the third. Braden Holtby, who was named the NHL's first star of the week on Monday, stopped 24 shots for his fifth straight win and Brooks Laich also scored for the Capitals. Andrei Kostitsyn and Travis Moen scored, and Price made 37 saves for the Canadiens. **Sharks 6, Stars 3** At Dallas, Ryane Clowe scored the tiebreaker in the opening two minutes of the final period and Torrey Mitchell added an insurance goal 1:40

later as San Jose rallied to beat Dallas.

Dany Heatley and Joe Thornton had two goals each, including empty-netters in the final 1:08, and Joe Pavelski contributed four assists for the Sharks, 10-2-2 in their last 14 games.

Jamie Benn had a power play goal and two assists, Toby Petersen netted a short-handed goal, and Mike Ribeiro scored at even strength for Dallas.

Kings 4, Predators 2

At Nashville, Tennessee, Anze Kopitar and Dustin Brown each had a goal and an assist as Los Angeles wrapped up the franchise's first sweep of a four-game road trip.

Alec Martinez and Wayne Simmonds also had goals as the Kings won the season series with Nashville 3-1. Brown sealed the victory with an empty-netter with 62 seconds left.

Jonathon Blum and J.P. Dumont each scored for Nashville.

At Ottawa, Tyler Kennedy and Jordan Staal each had a goal and an assist in Pittsburgh's win over Ottawa.

Chris Kunitz had three assists for the Penguins, who also got

goals from Ben Lovejoy, Matt Cooke and Zbynek Michalek. Ryan Shannon scored for the Senators. Ottawa's Craig Anderson allowed four goals for the second straight game. He made 36 saves while Pittsburgh backup Brent Johnson turned aside 21 of 22.

Paul Martin and Dustin Jeffrey had two assists each as the Penguins.

Hurricanes 1, Sabres 0

At Buffalo, New York, Cam Ward stopped 40 shots — including 22 in the first period — to help Carolina beat Buffalo and creep closer to playoff contention.

Brandon Sutter scored in the final minute of the first period, and the Hurricanes snapped a four-game winless streak. With 74 points, ninth-place Carolina moved to within two points of the Sabres for the Eastern Conference's eighth and final playoff spot with 3 1/2 weeks left in the regular season.

Bruins 3, Blue Jackets 2, SO

At Columbus, Ohio, Tuukka Rask stopped all three Columbus attempts and rookie Tyler Seguin scored the only shootout goal to end Boston's season-worst four-game losing

ing streak.

Rask made 34 saves through overtime, and David Krejci and Rich Peverley scored regulation goals for Boston, which won the 2,800th game in the history of the 87-year-old franchise.

Grant Clitsome and Scottie Upshall scored for Columbus. Steve Mason made 27 saves.

At Sunrise, Florida, Jeff Carter scored two goals in the second period as Philadelphia beat Florida.

Scott Hartnell also scored for the Flyers and Brian Boucher made 20 saves. The win was the Flyers' third in eight games but they maintained a one-point lead over Washington in the Eastern Division.

Stephen Weiss and Dmitry Kulikov scored for the Panthers. Tomas Vokoun stopped 28 shots.

In other NHL games Boston 3, Columbus 2, SO; New Jersey 4, Atlanta 2; N.Y. Rangers 6, N.Y. Islanders 3; Washington 4, Montreal 2; Carolina 1, Buffalo 0; Pittsburgh 5, Ottawa 1; Philadelphia 3, Florida 2; Los Angeles 4, Nashville 2; San Jose 6, Dallas 3; and Phoenix 4, Calgary 3. □



Kim Clijsters of Belgium, returns a shot to Marion Bartoli of France, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Novak Djokovic extended his winning streak to 15 matches with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over fellow Serb Viktor Troicki in the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open on Wednesday. Djokovic, ranked third in the

world, has lost just six games in his first three matches at Indian Wells, where he won the 2008 title. Djokovic's perfect match record this year includes winning titles at the Australian Open and Dubai, where he beat Roger Federer in the final.

Novak Djokovic easily advances at Indian Wells

Troicki, the 16th seed, hadn't lost a set here until he ran into Djokovic on a day when temperatures in the desert soared to near 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius).

Troicki came into the match with a 14-5 record, but Djokovic dominated from the beginning in winning for the eighth straight time against him. Djokovic's last loss came in November against Federer in the ATP World Tour finals in London.

Djokovic and Troicki teamed up later for a doubles match. Eighth-seeded Andy Roddick fought his temper and No. 18 Richard Gasquet of France, losing 6-3, 7-6 (5). It was Gasquet's second win over a top-

10 player this week, having taken out No. 10 Jurgen Melzer in the third round.

The American argued with the umpire when he trailed 3-1 in the second set. He rallied to lead 6-5 before a backhand error allowed Gasquet to force the tiebreaker.

Roddick fell behind 5-2 in the tiebreaker, tossing his racket when Gasquet hit a winner into the corner off his drop shot. Roddick rallied again, hitting a forehand winner on the run to get to 5-5. Gasquet got to match point, with Roddick's first serve just missing. The Frenchman hit a backwinner off his second serve to close out the match.

Juan Martin del Potro beat

his third seeded player, this time taking out No. 32 Philipp Kohlschreiber 7-6 (3), 7-6 (7). Del Potro, from Argentina, improved his match record to 17-4 this year as he rebounds from an injury-marred 2010. He has surged from No. 484 to 90th in the world rankings in a three-week span, winning a title at Delray Beach, Fla., and reaching the semifinals in two other tournaments.

"I am playing better than two months ago. I know it's a long road, but I'm still improving my serve, my forehand," he said.

"It's very tough to play every day against these kind of players, and I need time to feel 100 percent again." □

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NBA Roundup

Aldridge has 30 in Trail Blazers win over Mavs

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 30 points and reserve Brandon Roy added 21, including a key jumper with less than a minute to go, to help the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Dallas Mavericks 104-101 on Tuesday.

The Blazers led 100-94 with 3:50 left, but Jason Terry's basket narrowed it to 100-99. Roy hit a pair of free throws before a pull-up jumper that made it 104-99 with 47 seconds left.

Dirk Nowitzki hit a pair of free throws, but after a timeout with 8.8 seconds on the clock, he missed a 3-point attempt from the corner and time ran out for the Mavericks.

Nowitzki finished with 28 points and 11 rebounds for Dallas, which shot 59.7 percent for the game.

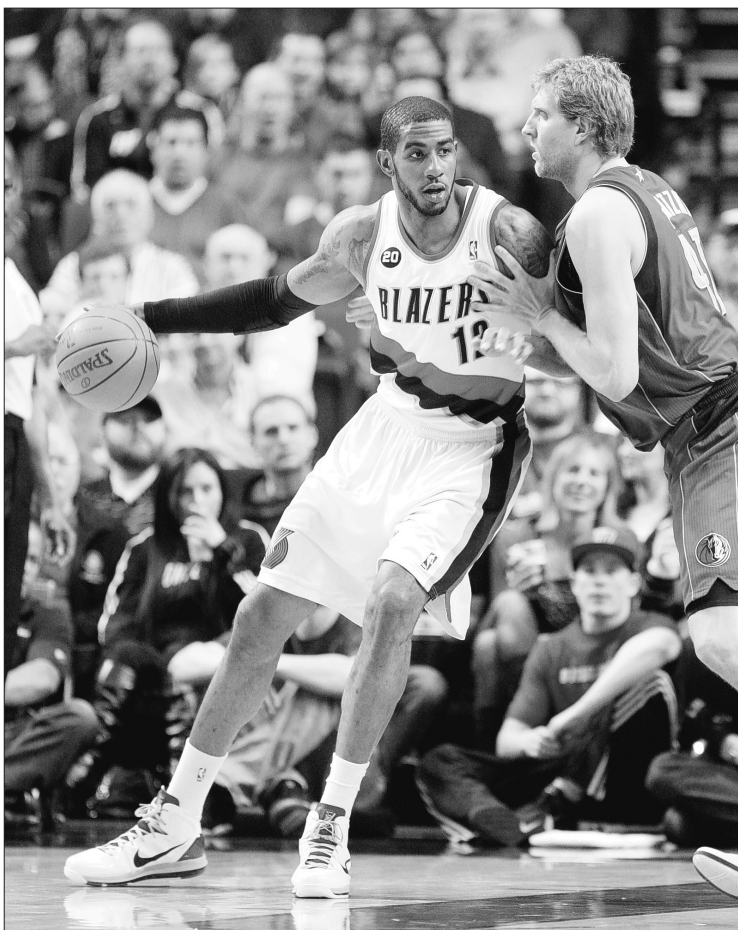
Pacers 119, Knicks 117

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger's jump shot with 0.3 seconds left gave Indiana a victory over New York.

Indiana passed the ball inbounds with 7.8 seconds left. Granger worked the clock, drove right on Shawne Williams, pulled up and connected on a 17-foot fadeaway.

Granger, who missed Sunday's 106-93 win at New York with strep throat, scored 26 points. Tyler Hansbrough scored a career-high 30 points after setting a career high with 29 Sunday. Darren Collison added 24 points and nine assists for Indiana.

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and Amare Stoudemire added 21 points and 10 re-



Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki, right, defends against Portland Trail Blazers' LaMarcus Aldridge (12) in first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

bounds for the Knicks, who have lost three straight.

Bulls 98, Wizards 79

At Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 23 points to help Chicago earn its seventh consecutive victory and move into sole possession of first place in the Eastern Conference.

Luol Deng added 20 points and Keith Bogans scored 17, his highest total since joining the Bulls. Bogans took all of his 10 shots from behind the 3-point arc, hitting a season-high five.

Washington center JaVale McGee had a rare triple-double with 11 points, 12 rebounds

and 12 blocks, the most by an NBA player since Toronto's Keon Clark had 12 on March 23, 2001.

Rookie Jordan Crawford led the Wizards with 27 points.

Hawks 110, Bucks 85

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 36 points — 28 in the first half — as Atlanta cruised past Milwaukee in a makeup game.

Johnson donned a black headband to protect the back of his scalp after undergoing a procedure to treat a skin infection. He made six straight 3-pointers on the way to the highest-scoring half by an Atlanta player this season.

With Johnson firing away, the Hawks went on a 20-0 run that started at the end of the first quarter and extended into the second.

Andrew Bogut led Milwaukee with 21 points. The teams were making up a Jan. 11

game that was postponed after an ice storm struck Atlanta.

In other NBA games it was Indiana 119, New York 117; Atlanta 110, Milwaukee 85; Chicago 98, Washington 79; and Portland 104, Dallas 101. □

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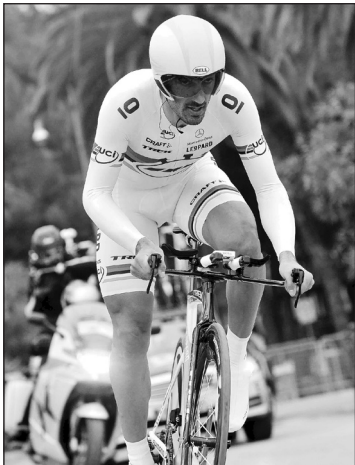
"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

Cancellara's team denies using new technology

PARIS (AP) — The Leopard Trek team is denouncing reports that Swiss cyclist Fabian Cancellara is using a revolutionary system on his bike which gives him a substantial advantage over his rivals.

Following a report in La Dernière Heure newspaper, team manager Brian Nygaard told Cyclingnews.com on Wednesday that the technology known as Gold Race is not used in his team but added that the time-trial world champion might have used it when racing with the Saxo Bank team. "I think there's a bit of confusion here," Nygaard said. "I think they might have been attached when he was still working with (bike manufacturer) Specialized but I can guarantee you 100 percent that we are not working with these people at all."

La Dernière Heure's story suggested Cancellara might have used the system of ball bearings offering gains of up to 2.5 seconds per kilometer since 2007. According to the newspaper, the technology developed by Italian engineer Giovanni Cecchini reduces



Switzerland's Fabian Cancellara pedals during the individual time trial stage of the Tirreno Adriatico cycling race in San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy, Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

Associated Press

friction by more than 95 percent and therefore causes a drop in lactic acid accumulation. A video posted on La Dernière Heure's website shows the system contributes to make the chain turn longer with a little push on the pedal. "If you look at the video, you can see that the stuff they are fiddling with is not the product that we are using, it looks like old material," Nygaard said. □

Patel pummels Australia before the champions rally



Canada's cricketer Hiral Patel bats during the Cricket World Cup Group A match between Australia and Canada in Bangalore, India, Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

Associated Press

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — Australia's aura of World Cup invincibility took a damaging

hit Wednesday as 19-year-old Canadian opener Hiral Patel plundered two of the fastest bowlers in cricket around the Bangalore ground with

wanton disregard for status or reputations.

Patel, playing only his second World Cup match, clobbered Brett Lee for 16 runs in the second over and slapped a Shaun Tait express ball to the boundary as Associate nation Canada put the Australian new ball attack to the sword, racing to 41 runs in 3.5 overs. The small crowd was delighted to see such uninhibited stroke play against two veterans of Australia's long domination of the 50-over format. Rival captains no doubt enjoyed it just the same. Shahid Afridi's Pakistan squad had a quiet Wednesday in Colombo, where they'll meet Australia on the weekend in a match that could determine top place in Group A.

Australia leads the group and is on a 34-match unbeaten streak at the World Cup dating back to 1999.

Ricky Ponting's squad finished up with a seven-wicket win over Canada that looks good on paper, but it was an ego-bruising encounter.

Ponting even hurled the ball into the ground in disgust at one stage after narrowly avoiding what could have been a calamitous collision in the field.

O, Canada. Unfortunately, Patel's sublime start didn't translate into a big enough total for the undermanned Canada attack to defend. The Canadians failed to bat out the 50 overs and finishing at 211. Lee returned to clean up the tailenders for respectable figures of 4-46.

Australian openers Shane Watson (94) and Brad Haddin (88) shared a 183-run stand to set the Australians on course for a lopsided win, which came with plenty of time and wickets to spare when they reached 212-3.

"They probably caught us on the hop a bit the way they started their innings," admitted Ponting, who last week upset the Associate nations by questioning whether the they should be included in the World Cup. □

ALI

Continued from Front Page

A third hiker, Sarah Shourd, was released on bail in September.

"He was hoping his letter would bear some weight in trying to secure the release of these ... two idealistic young people," his wife, Lonnie Ali, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from their Arizona home.

The letter was the second one the boxing champ sent to Khamenei asking for the Americans' release, Lonnie Ali said. The first was sent last year just before Shourd was released, but it isn't known whether the letter had any effect. Ali hasn't received responses to either.

"Please show the world the compassion I know you have in your heart," Ali wrote in his second letter, asking Khamenei as a "dear brother" to show the same mercy and

compassion for the two men as he did for Shourd.

Lonnie Ali said the letter was delivered via the Iranian consulate in the United Nations. It referenced the 69-year-old former boxer's previous trips to the country and his memories of its "kind and beautiful people."

"Most Americans don't know how warm and welcoming the Iranian people can be," Ali wrote. "One day, I hope I am able to return to Tehran to stand, greet and be among my Iranian brothers and sisters once again.

Perhaps that day will come soon."

Lonnie Ali said her husband has visited Iran twice before, including a trip in the early 1990s in which he tried to secure the exchange of prisoners during the Iran-Iraq war. She said he would be willing to go to Iran to help secure the hikers' release, but it would depend on his health.



Parkinson's Disease has limited his speech and physical activity, and at a rare public appearance in Glendale, Arizona, last week, Ali raised his fists for some pictures but sat in a chair, eyes shrouded in sunglasses even while inside, and at least once had to be adjusted when his head slumped. "If we thought that they would be released and if Muhammad's presence would have some impact on that release

for the good, then, yes, we would try very hard to make sure Muhammad was able to go," Lonnie Ali said. "But a lot of that, as you know, would depend on Muhammad's health. That's the bottom line."

The former boxer is the founder of a center for world peace in Louisville, where he grew up and launched a boxing career that included three world heavyweight titles. □

Review: GPS running watches offer lots of improvements

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer
NEW ORLEANS (AP)

— My accessories for last month's Mardi Gras Marathon in New Orleans included a pair of bead necklaces and three watches.

No, I wasn't seeking a triple reminder that I was sluggish. Rather, these watches had GPS receivers and gave me information continuously on how fast and how far I was going. That allowed me to adjust my pace along the way in the hope of hitting my target finish time (emphasis on hope). All three models showed a lot of improvement over the first GPS running devices I tried in 2003.

Although many frustrations remain, especially when using them in New York and other cities where tall buildings block the GPS signals, the devices have come down enough in price that they ought to be part of every runner's arsenal, as the days get longer and warmer for outdoor running.

As for the beads, my advice is to leave them in the hotel.

Garmin Forerunner 110 (\$200, \$250 with heart-rate monitor). Consider this GPS lite. The device is small, with limited functionality, but you get value for the price. It's a good choice if you want something really simple to use.

Furthermore, it was consistently the best of the three I tried at locating a GPS signal. That's because it remembers where the GPS satellites were the last time you used it. Presuming you haven't switched cities since then, the 110 doesn't have to start from scratch each time it starts trying to find a signal.

Even in New York, where GPS devices have more trouble locking in signals because of the buildings, I sometimes get a reading as soon as I'm out the door.

The watch gives you your time, distance and either average pace or speed, and that's it.

The device does store all your

data, including the exact route of your run and mile-by-mile (kilometer-by-kilometer) splits if you've turned the auto-lap feature on. But you need to connect the watch to a computer with the provided cable in order to read them, something relatively easy to do. The other two units I tried let you review your splits right from the device, in addition to the computer option.

The 110 also triggers its power-save mode rather quickly. I turn on all three units several minutes before the start of my races to ensure that the devices have enough time to locate GPS signals. But at Mardi Gras and other races before it, the 110 often turned itself off before the race began.

As annoying as that may be, Garmin told me that was by design. The 110 looks the most like a regular watch, and Garmin figures people will wear it throughout the day. For that reason, it doesn't have an off button — and thus needs the automatic power save. With-



In this Feb. 13, 2011 photo, a marathon runner, attending the Mardi Gras Marathon, displays three GPS running aides, the Garmin Forerunner 110, left, the Timex Ironman Global Trainer, and the Garmin Forerunner 305, right.

Associated Press

out it, the watch lasts just eight hours before needing a recharge.

For the same price, you can get the Forerunner 210, which lets you choose current pace instead of average pace. You can also view splits right from the watch, without having to transfer the information first. Timex Ironman Global Trainer (\$300, \$360 with heart-rate monitor).

This device is far better than

previous GPS running watches from Timex. But it largely plays catch-up with Garmin's GPS devices.

The Global Trainer is water resistant and has programmable settings for biking and swimming, allowing you to easily switch among them during a triathlon. Garmin's Forerunner 310XT, which I reviewed in 2009, had all this a year before the Global Trainer came out. □

Apple moves to stop kids racking up iTunes bills

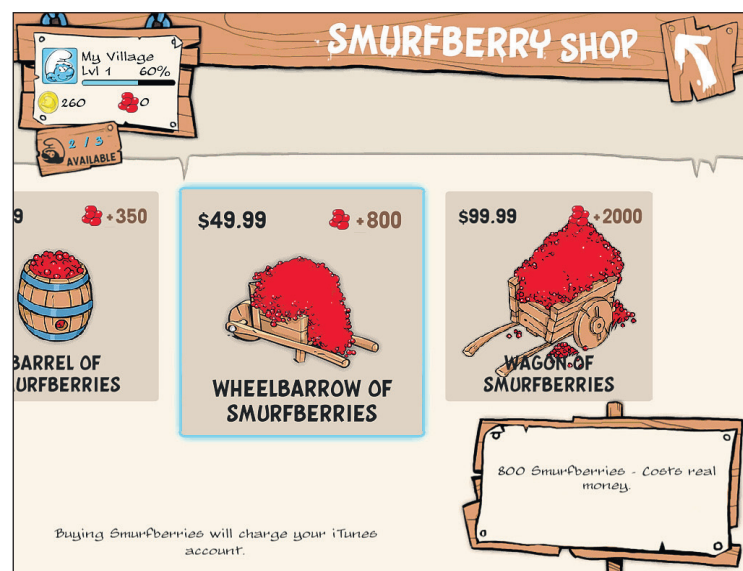
By PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Apple Inc. has changed how purchases inside iPhone and iPad games are authorized after customers complained that their kids were racking up hundreds of dollars worth of charges.

The issue was that after a user entered his or her iTunes password on a device, the device didn't prompt for the password again for 15 minutes. Any purchases, whether in the iTunes store or inside kid-friendly games such as "The Smurf's Village," went through without a new password prompt.

This meant that parents who handed over their iPhones or iPads to their kids were sometimes shocked by large purchases of "Smurfberries" and other virtual bling.

An Associated Press story in December highlighted the phenomenon. A subsequent story in The Washington Post prompted Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., to ask the Federal Trade Commission to look into the issue. With the iOS



In this screen shot of Capcom Entertainment Inc.'s "The Smurf's Village" app, the Smurfberry Shop is displayed. After customers complained that their kids were racking up hundreds of dollars worth of purchases inside iPhone and iPad games, Apple has changed how these purchases are authorized.

Associated Press

4.3 software update, Apple devices have one 15-minute password-free timer for the App Store and iTunes, and a separate one for in-app purchases, Apple spokeswoman Trudy Muller said.

Muller said she couldn't say why Apple made the change. Free, child-friendly games that allow in-app purchases are still on the list of top-grossing apps

in the App Store. At the top is "Tap Zoo," and "Smurfs' Village" is No. 6. "Smurfberries" and similar items in other games allow players to speed up what is otherwise very slow processes, such growing crops for the Smurfs.

The parents the AP talked to for the December story had received refunds from Apple for the inadvertent purchases. □



In this Feb. 2, 2011 file photo, a Motorola Xoom tablet is shown at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

Motorola to sell Wi-Fi-only version of Xoom tablet for \$599

PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Motorola Mobility says it will start selling a Wi-Fi-only version of its Xoom tablet computer for \$599 on March 27.

The Xoom is a prominent competitor to Apple Inc.'s iPad. A version with cellular broadband access went on sale through Verizon Wireless last month for \$800, or \$600 with a two-year contract. The Wi-Fi-only iPad 2 model with 32 gigabytes of flash memory, the same amount as the Xoom, also costs \$599. Manufacturers trying to take on the iPad have otherwise had a hard time matching the iPad's price. □

Oil prices rise with international tensions



Acar passes in a reflection of a gas terminal at a station Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in San Diego. Gas pump prices continued to climb, reaching a national average of \$3.524 for a gallon of regular on Wednesday, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices rose Wednesday as traders tried to gauge the impact that numerous international crises will have on world energy demand. Benchmark crude for April delivery gained 80 cents to settle at \$97.98 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil rose as high as \$99.60 earlier in the session. In London, Brent crude rose \$2.10 to settle at \$110.62 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. A series of global events has rattled markets in the past several weeks, with Wednesday's focus shifting between Japan's crisis and rising tensions in Bahrain.

Analysts say oil prices will continue to have wild swings as perceptions shift about demand in the global economy. The price of benchmark crude has fallen after topping \$105 a barrel earlier this month.

"There's just so much uncertainty," PFGBest analyst Phil Flynn said. "Everyone's trading emotionally."

Analyst Jim Ritterbusch said the global situation, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, overshadowed disappointing U.S. economic news that new home construction fell to the second-lowest level on record in February and wholesale prices rose last month.

"There are just so many geopolitical and economic and political crosscurrents that the market shifts each day in an attempt to discount things," he said. Here are some of the issues moving energy prices this week:

Arabia produces about 8.4 million barrels of oil per day, more than any country in the world. Iran produces 4.3 million barrels per day. Bahrain also is strategically important to the U.S. as home to the Navy's 5th Fleet.

"The Bahrain/Saudi situation is a powder keg," analyst and trader Stephen Schork said. —In Libya, Moammar Gadhafi continued to pound rebel strongholds as the country's oil exports ground to a halt. Before the uprising, Libya produced about 1.6 million barrels per day, or nearly 2 percent of world demand. Saudi Arabia and other OPEC countries have increased production and say they can make up for the Libyan crude, most of which went to Europe.

—With homes and businesses destroyed by Japan's deadly earthquake and tsunami, energy demand is expected to initially decline in the world's third-largest economy. But economists say the country will need to boost imports of oil, natural gas and coal as it makes up for power lost from damaged nuclear facilities. Normally more than 50 nuclear reactors supply about 25 percent of Japan's electricity. □

U.S. proposes regulating mercury from coal plants

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed rules on Wednesday that would for the first time regulate emissions from coal-fired power plants, including limiting mercury, lead, arsenic and acid gas pollution.

Environmental and medical groups praised the regulatory agency's move, which came in response to a court-ordered deadline, saying the new regulations will remove toxins from the air that contribute to respiratory illnesses, birth defects and developmental problems in children.

There are currently no limits in the U.S. on how much mercury or other pollutants can be released from a power plant's smoke stacks. The EPA said the new regulations — which would go into effect by 2014 — would reduce mercury emissions from these power plants by 91 percent.

This standard that "will save lives, prevent illnesses and promote vital economic opportuni-

ties across the country," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, who invited schoolchildren to attend the event in Washington, D.C. where she signed the proposal. She said the proposal could become law by late 2011 or early 2012. Such rules would have the greatest impact on Texas, which is home to more coal-fired power plants than any other state. Texas has at least 17 coal-fired plants and about a dozen more in various stages of the permitting process. The new rules require power plants to install technologies that would limit the emissions. Industry has argued that installing the technologies would be expensive and could significantly increase electricity rates paid by consumers. Jackson said the EPA's models found installing the technologies would increase rates about \$3 to \$4 a month, though it could be less depending on fuel costs. For example, she said, a New Jersey provider that already installed pollution cutting technologies recently reduced its rates. □



Higher prices for food are about to get worse

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are noticing higher prices at the grocery store, and it's about to get worse. Food prices at the wholesale level rose last month by the most in 36 years. Cold weather accounted for most of it, forcing stores and restaurants to pay more for green peppers, lettuce and other vegetables, but meat and dairy prices surged, too.

The big questions are how long food prices will keep rising and how high they'll go. The impact is already visible. Wendy's, paying higher prices for tomatoes, now puts them on hamburgers only by request. Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts have raised prices because they pay more for coffee beans. Supermarkets warn customers that produce may be of lower quality, or limited. "It has thrown the whole industry into a tizzy," says Dan Bates, director of merchandising for the produce division of grocery chain Supervalu Inc.



In this photo take March 1, 2011, meat manager Mike Watson stocks the shelves at a Kroger Co. supermarket, in Cincinnati. Wholesale prices rise 1.6 pct. due to biggest jump in food costs in more than 36 years.

Associated Press

Food prices rose 3.9 percent last month, the most since November 1974. Most of the increase was because harsh winter freezes in Florida, Texas and other Southern states, which damaged crops. At the same time, global prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, coffee and other commodities have risen sharply in the past year. That's raised the price of animal feed, which has pushed up the cost of eggs, ground beef and milk.

Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, says his firm has warned since last summer that spikes in commodity prices would eventually work their way down to wholesalers and consumers, "and here it is. There is plenty more to come over the next few months." Crop prices began to increase last summer, after droughts slammed harvests in Russia and several other countries. Sharp growth in new world economic powers like India and China has also increased demand.

Overall, the producer price index, which tracks price changes before they reach the consumer, rose 1.6 percent in February, the Labor Department said Wednesday. That's double the rise from the previous month and the biggest increase since June 2009. The index is adjusted to account for seasonal variations.

More expensive food means people have less money for the casual

spending that helps the economy grow and create jobs. And it adds to growing concerns about inflation down the road, still a worry two years after the Great Recession.

Another is the weak housing market, which most economists say is years away from a full recovery. The government said Wednesday that home construction plunged in February to the lowest level since April 2009 and the second-lowest in more than a half-century.

The stock market dropped sharply on the disappointing U.S. economic reports and growing concerns about Japan's nuclear crisis. The Dow Jones industrial average fell by more than 240 points, or 2 percent.

Hints of steeper food prices will likely show up in the government's report on consumer prices, due out Thursday. The consumer price index is forecast to rise 0.4 percent, the same as the previous two months, but the wholesale report caused several economists to warn it could be higher.

Many economists expect food prices to keep rising through the end of the year. Consumer food prices will be about 5 percent higher this fall than the previous time last year, according to RBC Capital Markets. That's up from the current annual pace of about 2 percent.

Food prices are already the highest since the U.N. began keeping track

in 1990.

Corn prices have almost doubled since last summer, although they did dip this week after Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

The harsh winter took a toll on restaurants, grocery stores and consumers. Normally if there is a shortage of one product in Florida, such as green peppers, companies can turn to Mexico or Texas. But all the major vegetable producing regions were harmed. That has led to everything from smaller heads of lettuce to higher prices for bananas and scarred fruit.

"This year was basically a perfect storm," says Supervalu's Bates, who hopes things will improve now that the spring growing season is almost here.

Ashley Sewell, who works three part-time jobs in Fort Worth, Texas, says she sees the difference when she goes out to eat or shop for groceries. She's an avid cook who used to wander the grocery-store aisles looking for inspiration. Now, she takes a list. □

Zediva taps loophole, offers new movies online

SUNNYVALE, California

(AP) — A California startup is making new hit movies such as "The Fighter" available for instant viewing online through a loophole: It lets customers rent a DVD and a player that are actually located in the Silicon Valley. By doing this, Zediva Inc. appears to circumvent the usual, sometimes lengthy waiting period that movie studios impose on Netflix Inc. and other companies that offer streaming of movies to Internet-connected TVs, laptops and other gadgets.

Companies are legally allowed to rent physical copies of DVDs without permission from the movie studios, the way libraries are allowed to freely lend out books. Internet streaming rights, however,

Japan crisis a threat to companies' supply routes

The Associated Press

The disaster in Japan has exposed a problem with how multinational companies do business: The system they use to keep supplies rolling in is lean and cost-effective — yet vulnerable to sudden shocks. Factories, ports, roads, railways and airports in northern Japan have been shut down or damaged because of the stricken nuclear plant in the region. So auto and technology companies are cut off from suppliers in the disaster zone. Some have had to stop or slow production.

"When you're running incredibly lean and you're going global, you become very vulnerable to supply disruptions," says Stanley Fawcett, a professor of global supply chain management at Brigham Young University.

The risks are higher because so many companies keep their inventories low to save money. They can't sustain production for long without new supplies. Subaru of America has suspended overtime at its only North American plant, in Lafayette, Indiana. Toyota Motor Corp. has canceled overtime and Saturday production at its 10 North American plants.

The two companies are trying to conserve their existing supplies.

Among the auto plants damaged by the quake was one in Miyagi prefecture that supplies parts for hybrid batteries in Toyota Prius, Camry and Lexus hybrids. It's unclear when the plant, a joint venture of Toyota and Panasonic, will start running again.

Even companies whose Japanese suppliers escaped damage have scrambled to ensure supply lines remain intact. Ford, for example, relies on a Japanese plant for hybrid batteries for its Fusion, Escape and MKZ hybrid vehicles. That plant wasn't damaged in the quake. But Ford isn't taking any chances because of the transportation troubles in Japan. It's looking for alternate supplies and is looking into airlifting parts if shipping shuts down. "The whole thing could change overnight," says spokesman Todd Nissen.

Automakers around the world have tried to copy the Japanese car manufacturing system, which is regarded as lean and cost-efficient. It's built around tight links between an automaker and its multiple suppliers. But if a kink devel-



In this June 19, 2009 file photo, an Apple store employee activates an Apple iPhone 3G, in New York. The Apple iPhone 3G contains \$60 worth of components from Japan, \$23 from South Korea, \$30 from Germany and \$11 from the United States - and it's assembled in China for \$6.95.

Associated Press

ops in that system, known as the supply chain, an entire assembly line can shut down within hours.

Toyota says its vehicles contain 20,000 to 30,000 parts. Most come from about 600 suppliers. And the chain doesn't stop there. The 600 suppliers themselves rely on hundreds of other companies to provide raw materials and components. □



A DVD rental from Netflix is seen against the company's website in Medford, Massachusetts in this July 25, 2008 file photo.

ie rentals online, but movie studios pick which titles are available and share revenue. Netflix Inc. offers Internet streaming of movies as part of monthly subscription packages, but generally only for older movies for which Netflix has negotiated rights. □



Actor Matthew McConaughey

After many rom-coms, McConaughey returns to drama

LOS ANGELES — After years of fun both on and off screen, Matthew McConaughey is donning a suit and digging back into drama.

His most recent credits include starting a family with girlfriend Camila Alves. They have a 1-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son, Vida and Levi. Before that, McConaughey was on a comedy run, with roles in “Fool’s Gold,” “Ghosts of Girlfriends Past” and “Tropic Thunder.” He also played the shirtless, shoeless lead in a little indie called “Surfer, Dude.”

Now, the 41-year-old actor is suiting up

for the courtroom, playing opposite Ryan Phillippe and Marisa Tomei in the legal thriller “The Lincoln Lawyer.”

The role is something of a homecoming for McConaughey, whose turn as an idealistic young lawyer in 1996’s “A Time to Kill” marked his big-screen breakthrough, introducing the handsome Texan to moviegoers as a new leading man. And it goes back further than that. McConaughey also wanted to study law as a University of Texas student.

“That’s probably instinctually why I feel comfortable jumping into these kinds of

shoes,” says McConaughey, his real-life size-10s up on a sofa at the Four Seasons hotel.

“I love the world. Ideally, I love the scale of justice, guilt and innocence and right and wrong.

And then realistically, I’ve learned to love this game they play.”

McConaughey plays Mick Haller, a savvy defense attorney who operates out of the back of his chauffeur-driven Lincoln Town Car. He mostly serves street-level criminals, until he’s hired to defend a rich playboy accused of domestic violence. □



Canadian singer Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber meets wax double

LONDON — Teenage pop sensation Justin Bieber took time out from touring on Tuesday to visit the Madame Tussauds museum in London and pose next to a waxwork model of himself.

The model, dressed in a red and black checkered shirt and black jeans, was one of three Bieber replicas being unveiled -- the others were in Amsterdam and New York.

“It’s pretty incredible to see,”

said the 17-year-old, before joking about how small the waxwork was. “As you can see, you know, I’m at least six feet taller than this guy.”

Liz Edwards, spokeswoman for the museum, said the real Bieber would naturally change quickly over the eight months it took to create the life-like model.

“So we really wanted to make sure we made a ‘moment in time’ figure,” she said. “But

it’s the hair that everyone is paying the biggest attention to. So, I’d say it’s the hair that’s been the biggest challenge.”

The singer, already one of the world’s biggest pop stars with albums “My World” and “My World 2.0”, was accompanied to the event by his mother, and he greeted a small crowd of fans. He said that he would ideally like his waxwork figure to stand next to U.S. rapper Tupac Shakur. □

Nate Dogg, whose hooks boosted rap hits, dies

LOS ANGELES — Singer Nate Dogg, whose near monotone crooning anchored some of rap’s most seminal songs and helped define the sound of West coast hip-hop, has died at age 41.

Attorney Mark Geragos said Nate Dogg, whose real name was Nathaniel D. Hale, died Tuesday of complications from multiple strokes.

Nate Dogg wasn’t a rapper, but he was an integral figure in the genre: His deep voice wasn’t particularly melodic, but its tone at times menacing, at times playful, yet always charming provided just the right touch on hits including Warren G’s “Regulate,” 50 Cent’s “21 Questions,” Dr. Dre’s “The Next Episode” and countless others.

While Nate Dogg provided hooks for rappers from coast to coast, the Long Beach, Calif., native is best known for his contributions to the West Coast soundtrack provided by the likes of Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Tha Dogg Pound and more. Nate Dogg was even part of a “supergroup” featuring Snoop Dogg and Warren

G, called 213.

Nate Dogg, who had suffered strokes in recent years, also put out his own solo projects but was best known for his collaborations with others.

Last year, Warren G said Nate Dogg was in therapy but needed help. “Everybody just gotta keep him in their prayers, cause he had two strokes and that’s real dangerous. And a lot of people don’t come back from that,” he said in an interview to HipHollywood. □



Nate Dogg



US singer Michael Jackson

LONDON — Fulham on Wednesday confirmed the club will soon be home to a commemorative statue of late

Fulham owner’s off the wall tribute to Jacko

“King of Pop” Michael Jackson following a request by owner Mohamed Al Fayed.

Al Fayed, a friend of Jackson’s, commissioned a statue of the iconic singer soon after his death in Los Angeles in 2009.

The billionaire had initially planned to erect the statue outside his famous Harrods department store in Knightsbridge but has now decided that the Jackson memorial should be placed at Craven Cottage.

The statue shows Jackson

who visited Craven Cottage as a guest of Al Fayed before his death in one of his signature poses and will stand on the banks of the River Thames.

“Michael Jackson was truly a legend, a term used too often in this modern world saturated in the hyperbole surrounding celebrity,” Al Fayed said on Fulham’s official website.

“He was my friend, a man with whom I shared many happy memories and who died a tragic and untimely death.

“He left behind a legacy of music so vast it takes one’s

breath away; from a precocious talent to an ingenuity and groundbreaking modernity that shall never be repeated. “It shall often be imitated, but it will never be replicated.

“Michael Jackson was, and shall always remain, one of a kind.

“I hope that many fans of his will visit the statue at the Cottage from far and wide, and that Fulham fans will appreciate seeing the finest performer in the world in and amongst them, the finest fans in the world.” □

We pray for Japan

Lady Gaga raises \$250,000 for Japan quake victims

WASHINGTON — Lady Gaga has raised \$250,000 in 48 hours for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan by selling plastic wristbands that say “We pray for Japan,” the pop superstar tweeted Wednesday.

“Monsters: in just 48 hrs you’ve raised a quarter of a million dollars for Japan Relief,” Gaga said on Twitter.

“It’s important we help.” Gaga launched the white wristbands with their prayerful message written in red in English and Japanese, via a Twitter message on Monday, three days after a 9.0-magnitude quake struck off the coast of northeastern Japan, triggering a killer tsunami. □

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY



Gastric Bypass

Gastric bypass patients take longer to process alcohol, study finds

Gastric bypass patients take longer to process alcohol, which could put some at risk for overdrinking, researchers report.

Gastric bypass surgery an operation in which the surgeon staples a large section of the stomach, leaving only a tiny pouch is used to help severely obese people lose weight. This study of 19 people who had Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) found that they had a much higher breath alcohol content after consuming alcohol and took much longer to become sober after drinking, compared to before their surgery.

Before the operation, the patients' peak breath alcohol content percentage just after drinking five ounces of red wine was 0.024 percent. The level was 0.059 three months after surgery and 0.088 six months after surgery, which is higher than the legal driving limit of .08 percent.

Prior to surgery, it took 49 minutes for the patients to reach a zero breath alcohol content after drinking five ounces of red wine. The return to zero BAC took 61 minutes three months after surgery and 88 minutes six months after surgery.

The study was published in the February issue of the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Despite the benefits of the procedure, "we want to raise the potential concern for RYGB patients who continue to drink after their operation because they may tend to overuse alcohol, which can, in turn, lead to weight regain, nutritional deficiencies, and/or alcohol dependence," senior author Dr. John M. Morton, an associate professor of surgery at Stanford University, said in a journal news release.

Gastric bypass patients "need to understand that their body will respond to alcohol differently after their operation and they need to exercise caution if they choose to drink alcohol," Morton said. □

Child obesity growing in developing world: WHO

GENEVA -The number of overweight African children under five has tripled to 13.5 million in 20 years, the UN's health agency said Wednesday, warning of a child obesity problem in developing countries. Poor diet, low rates of breastfeeding and a sedentary lifestyle were largely to blame for the sharp rise in overweight children in developing nations, the World Health Organisation said.

In Africa the jump was from four million in 1990 to 13.5 million in 2010, an increase from four percent of the total under-five population to 8.5 percent, it said.

In Asia the corresponding gain over the same period was from 3.2 percent to 4.9 percent. "The reason why children become overweight is because they are becoming more sedentary or less active and the food they have is exceeding their needs," said Francesco Branca, WHO's director of nutrition for health and development.

Children are given high energy food that is low in essential vitamins and minerals but heavy with sugar and fat, he noted.

"What we have seen in developing countries is that the offer of food is moving towards highly refined, industrial food which often have very high content of sugar and fat," Branca said.

The problem was compounded by a trend of lower breastfeeding rates, he said.

Poor nutrition among mothers also often resulted in new-



Mothers breastfeed their children

borns with a low birth weight of under 2.5 kilogrammes who were vulnerable to becoming overweight later in life, Branca said.

"Often we have the combination of children who have low birth weight who become more easily children who are overweight," he said, adding

"children with very low birth weight are less able to handle high energy density food."

The UN health agency issued in January a series of recommendations aimed at cutting child obesity, including a call on governments to ban junk food from schools and playgrounds. □

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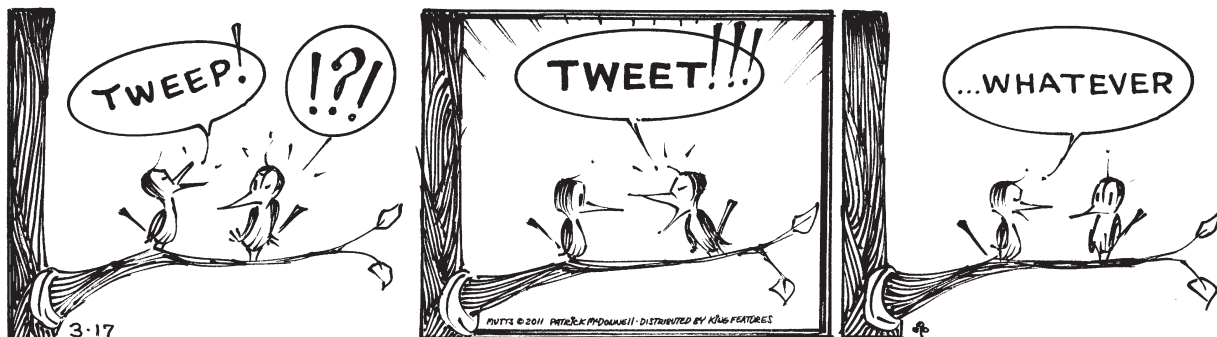
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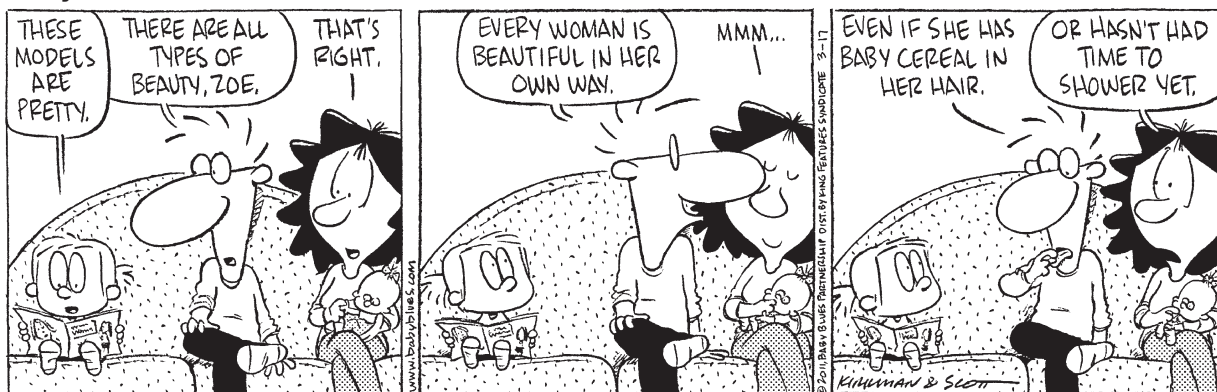
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



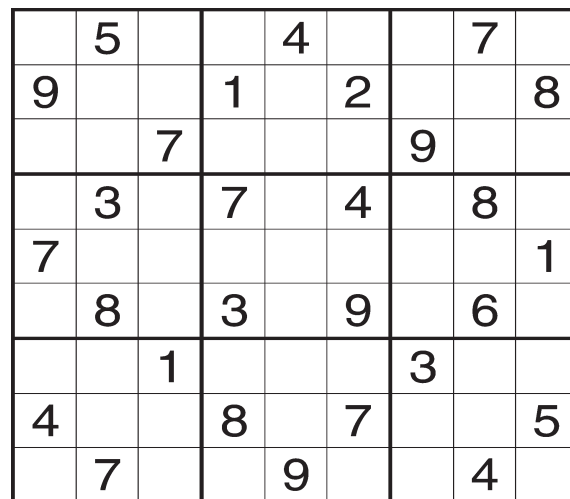
Baby Blues



Zits



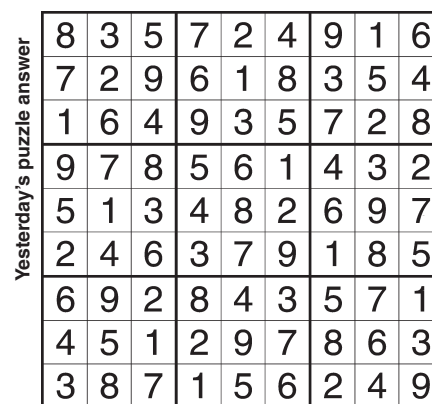
Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

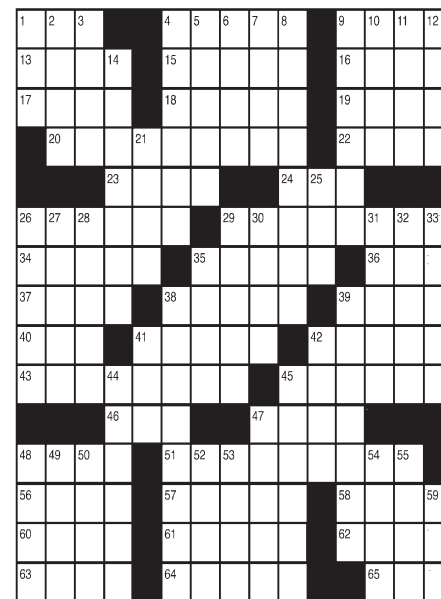
3/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



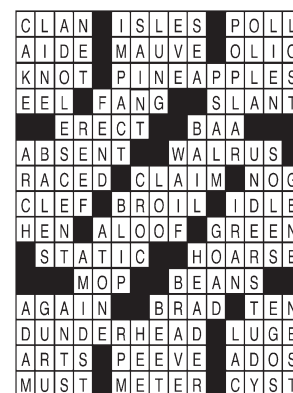
ACROSS

- 1 Lincoln's
nickname
 - 4 ___ out; become
inattentive
 - 9 Run ___; meet
 - 13 Fly high
 - 15 Erie or Panama
 - 16 Cruel
 - 17 ___ Johnson of
TV's "Laugh-In"
 - 18 Unfasten
 - 19 ___ up; confined
 - 20 Chaperoning
 - 22 Therefore
 - 23 Rowers' needs
 - 24 Lend a hand to
 - 26 Like casual
attire
 - 29 Imagine
 - 34 Warty
amphibians
 - 35 Decorative
 - 36 Neither...___
 - 37 Pitcher's
delights
 - 38 India's dollar
 - 39 Chevy model of
the 1970s
 - 40 Successful
combat pilot
 - 41 Mexican money
 - 42 Cause of an
infectious
disease
 - 43 Give an
ultimatum to
 - 45 Baby's sock
 - 46 ___ , Sweet as
"Apple Cider"
 - 47 Stuffed
 - 48 Housekeeper
 - 51 Vital
 - 56 Arthur of tennis
 - 57 Hideaways
 - 58 ___ off; begins a
golf game
 - 60 Take ___ leave it
 - 61 Vote into office
 - 62 ___ other; one
another
 - 63 Cuts off
 - 64 Goes skyward
 - 65 Definite article
- DOWN**
- 1 As busy ___ bee
 - 2 Drill a hole



3/17/11

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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3/17/11

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 38 Store that sells | 49 Regarding |
| to the public | 50 Restaurant |
| 39 Break, as a law | chain |
| 41 Launch site | 52 African nation |
| 42 Lightbulb's "V" | 53 Dessert picks |
| 44 Sea ducks | 54 Orderly |
| 45 Explodes | 55 Abbr. in many |
| 47 Coerce | school names |
| 48 USPS delivery | 59 That girl |

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Wk 8 \$9,000 1BR Garden*
Wk 8 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*
Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden
Wk 10, \$9,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden
Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)
Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2 BR Pool*

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NASA, Russian astronauts land in Kazakh steppe



Russian space agency rescuers crowd near Russian cosmonauts Oleg Skripochka, left, Alexander Kaleri, center, and US astronaut Scott Kelly, right, shortly after their landing near the town of Arkalyk in northern Kazakhstan, Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP) — NASA astronaut Scott Kelly and two Russian cosmonauts landed safely Wednesday in the snowy expanses of central Kazakhstan after spending five months on the International Space Station. The Soyuz capsule carrying Kelly, Alexander Kaleri and Oleg Skripochka landed at 1:53 p.m. about 30 miles from the northern Kazakh city of Arkalyk.

Kelly returns to earth just as his twin brother Mark, husband of wounded congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, prepares to take part in the U.S. space shuttle Endeav-

our's final mission in April. Scott Kelly was shown in a NASA photo wearing a blue wristband with a peace sign, a heart and the name "Gabby." The capsule came back to harsh conditions, including a stiff wind that blew it on its side and rolled it 25 yards from its touchdown point through fresh snow.

Rob Navias, a spokesman for the U.S. space agency NASA on the scene, described conditions as “like a scene from the North Pole.”

The space travelers were bundled into blankets after being pulled from the capsule, then placed in reclining stretchers as they slowly acclimated to the planet's gravity after

months of weightlessness. The capsule landed about 3 1/2 hours after undocking from the ISS. After hurtling through space, it deployed a parachute about 15 minutes before touchdown, slowing its speed from 500 mph to about 180 mph.

A second parachute slowed its descent to 16 mph. Then with the ground just a few yards away, six engines on the capsule's bottom were fired, bringing it to a gentle landing in a powdery cloud of fresh snow. The first out was Kaleri, who has now spent a total of 770 days in space

over five flights, making him the second most experienced space flier in history after compatriot Sergei Krikalyov. Navias said Kaleri smiled and winked at him as he was lifted out. Skripochka and Kelly also appeared to be in good shape. "Scott Kelly is looking remarkably well," Navias said. In a break with usual practice, search-and-recovery personnel dispensed with the ritual of taking the returning astronauts to inflatable medical tents for a checkup and instead loaded them directly onto all-terrain vehicles. "The search and recovery

team have decided it's too cold, it's too wintry, it's too Arctic out here in terms of the overall conditions," Navias said. During his time on the space station, Kelly ran a series of challenges on his Twitter feed in which his followers had to identify locations on earth shown in photographs taken from the orbiting laboratory. The final photo posted was of snow-covered Kazakhstan. Russian Dmitry Kondratyev, Italy's Paolo Nespoli and American Catherine Coleman remain aboard the space station; they are to return to earth in about three months. □

Angola

First dinosaur fossil discovered



In this undated photo supplied by the PaleoAngola Project, researcher Octávio Mateus analyses part of a fossilized dinosaur.

Associated Press

DONNA BRYSON
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Scientists say they have dis-

covered the first fossil of a dinosaur in Angola, and that it's a new creature, heralding a research renaissance in

a country slowly emerging
from decades of war.

A paper published Wednesday in the *Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences* describes a long-necked, plant-eating sauropod, among the largest creatures ever to have walked the earth. The international team that found and identified the fossilized forelimb bone say it is from a previously unknown dinosaur, citing unique skeletal characteristics.

The fossil was found along with fish and shark teeth in what would have been a sea bed 90 million years ago, leading its discoverers to believe the dinosaur might have been washed into the sea and torn apart by ancient sharks. The new dinosaur has been dubbed *Angolatitan adamas* — *Angolatitan* means “Angolan giant” and the *adamas* is a sea giant from Portuguese sailing myths. Matthew F. Bonnan, a sauro-pod expert at Western Illinois University, was not involved with the Angolan research. □

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Niños piden a Obama legalizar a salvadoreños

COMASAGUA, El Salvador (AP) - La legalización de los salvadoreños en los Estados Unidos y la reconstrucción de su centro escolar, son las peticiones de un grupo de niños que se preparan para recibir al presidente estadounidense Barack Obama. En tanto, el presidente Mauricio Funes dijo que la visita de Obama a El Salvador la semana entrante será una gran oportunidad de desarrollo para el país. “Nos sentimos orgullosos de ser el país elegido por el mandatario de la primera potencia mundial para expresar su solidaridad y deseo de cooperación con América Latina”, señaló Funes en un discurso durante un encuentro anual de empresarios locales la noche del martes. Obama “tiene especial interés en establecer con El Salvador una alianza para el crecimiento. Tiene interés en considerarnos un socio y eso abre una oportunidad histórica que debemos aprovechar para dar el gran paso que desde hace años esperamos”, expresó el

gobernante. Unos 100 niños del centro escolar Estados Unidos de América, en la montañosa población de Comasagua y a unos 28 kilómetros (17 millas) al oeste de la capital, serán los encargados de formar una valla para dar la bienvenida de Obama en el aeropuerto internacional. “Si pudiera hablar con él le pediría que ayude a los salvadoreños (en Estados Unidos) y nos ayude a reconstruir la escuela”, dijo a la AP Ileana Inocente, de 12 años. “Al ayudar a los salvadoreños nos ayuda a todos”, agregó mientras junto a sus compañeros armaba las banderas de Estados Unidos y de El Salvador que usarán en la ceremonia. German Peña, de 16 años, dijo que el martes hará una pausa en su trabajo de madrugada en una panadería para estar con sus compañeros y “participar en un acto histórico para todo El Salvador. Todos coincidimos que la petición es ayudar a los salvadoreños en Estados Unidos”.

Unos 2,8 millones de salvadoreños viven en Estados Unidos de los cuales 217.000 están amparados en el programa temporal migratorio TPS (por sus siglas en inglés), que les permite residir y trabajar en ese país. El beneficio está vigente desde 2001 y la prórroga más reciente concluirá en marzo de 2012. Funes ha reiterado que en el encuentro con Obama solicitará la residencia permanente para los beneficiados del TPS. Discutirán además temas de seguridad, lucha contra la pobreza, cooperación económica y la energía renovable. Obama llegará a El Salvador en su primer viaje por Centro y Sudamérica, que incluirá Brasil y Chile y que coincidirá con el 50 aniversario de Alianza para el Progreso, un programa de ayuda económica y social que lanzó el ex presidente John F. Kennedy en 1961.

El centro escolar Estados Unidos de América fue construido en 1963 por medio de Alianza para el Progreso, pero según el director Carlos Blanco, la ayuda quedó suspendida tras el conflicto armado de 12 años en El Salvador y que concluyó en 1992 con la firma de un acuerdo de paz entre el ejército y el ex guerrillero Frente Farabundo



Estudiantes ensamblan banderas de Estados Unidos y El Salvador en composición con fotografías del presidente Barack Obama en la escuela Estados Unidos de América en Comasagua, El Salvador, el martes 15 de marzo del 2011. Los estudiantes de esta escuela participarán en la ceremonia de bienvenida de Obama el 22 de marzo.

(AP Photo/Luis Romero)

Reina Sofía inaugura en Cartagena plan alcantarillado

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) - La Reina Sofía de España inauguró el miércoles una red de alcantarillado de agua, parcialmente financiada por su país, en una empobrecida barriada en el balneario caribeño de Cartagena. La red de alcantarillado de 53.400 metros de tubería, financiada 50% por España y 50% por la alcaldía de Cartagena, beneficiará a por lo menos 50.000 habitantes de la barriada Nelson Mandela. El proyecto de alcantarillado, con un valor de 7,2 millones de dólares, fue visitado por la reina, quien cumple en la jornada el segundo y último día de visita a Colombia para recorrer varios colegios y proyectos sociales. Acompañada de un fuerte dispositivo de seguridad y con restricciones para la prensa, la reina escuchó en la barriada la música y la danza del grupo “Mala Conducta Music”, cuyos temas tratan temas como la discriminación e invitan a los locales a sentirse orgullosos de ser afrodescendientes. La reina estuvo el martes en Bogotá, donde se reunió en la casa de gobierno con el presidente Juan Manuel Santos y le expresó su deseo de una pronta visita a España. De acuerdo con el programa oficial, al final de la tarde la reina y su comitiva saldrán de Cartagena con rumbo a Quito. □

Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), ahora partido político que arropó la candidatura del presidente Funes. “In God We Trust” (En Dios

confiamos) el lema impreso en las monedas y dólares estadounidenses ahora adorna uno de los patios del centro escolar. □

Chávez congela plan nuclear venezolano

CARACAS (AP) - El presidente Hugo Chávez lamentó el martes la tragedia del Japón y anunció, tras ver la crisis que sufre el país asiático en una planta nuclear, que los incipientes planes de desarrollar energía atómica en Venezuela quedarán congelados indefinidamente. El líder venezolano consideró que las fugas de radiación podría ser peligrosa para Japón y sus vecinos, incluyendo China. “Lo que ha estado pasando en las últimas horas es algo sumamente riesgoso y peligroso para el mundo entero, porque a pesar de la gran tecnología y avances que Japón tiene, sin duda, fíjense en lo que está ocurriendo con algunos reactores nucleares”, enfatizó. “Pedimos a Dios que sea lo menos grave posible y que no tenga graves impactos so-

bre la población del Japón y otros pueblos vecinos”, añadió. “No tengo la menor duda que esto altera y va a alterar a lo mejor de manera muy fuerte los planes de desarrollo de la energía nuclear en el mundo”, comentó el gobernante en un acto de firma de una serie de convenios de cooperación con empresas chinas. “Yo por el momento he ordenado al vicepresidente” y ministro de Energía Rafael “Ramírez que congelemos los planes que hemos venido adelantando, unos estudios muy preliminares al respecto del programa nuclear pacífico venezolano”, destacó. Chávez acordó el año pasado con Rusia el inicio de una serie de estudios con miras a construir un reactor nuclear en Venezuela, que sería utilizado para la medicina y la industria. □



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